



3 Civil Service Commission targets
Kuwaitization of 3,140 jobs: Jassar



11 Lanka crisis scares tourists
in fresh hit to the economy



16 Phillips launches new Ingenia
Ambition 1.5 T MRI in Dubai



25 Djokovic returns to
world number one



Health insurance hospitals to serve two million expatriates

MP calls on minister to resign over flooding



KUWAIT: Lightning strikes the sky above Kuwait City during a thunderstorm yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: A new health insurance company's full range of medical services will serve more than two million expatriates living and working in the country when they are completed, the new chairman of the National Assembly's health committee said yesterday. MP Humoud Al-Khudhair said that when the Dhaman health assurance company begins operations, it will provide a complete range of medical services, from primary healthcare to advanced treatment at hospitals.

Khudhair however did not give any specific date when the services will be ready, but the Assembly has already approved a law for the company to offer medical services to expatriates in the country. The lawmaker said when the company will start its services, it will greatly reduce overcrowding at public hospitals and clinics all over the country, and will also reduce administrative and financial expenses on the government. He added the move will sharply improve the standard of medical services in the country.

At present, a majority of expatriates receive medical services at public health centers and hospitals after paying a mandatory health insurance fee of KD 50 per person annually, in addition to reduced charges for a variety of medical

services in public clinics and hospitals. Last year, the health ministry sharply increased charges for medical services provided to expatriates by public health centers and hospitals.

Meanwhile, MP Faisal Al-Kandari yesterday accused Public Works Minister Husam Al-Roumi of being responsible for the damage caused by rains last week, and called on him to resign. He said the minister is no longer capable of running the daily affairs of his ministry, which has failed to deal with the "scandal" of the floodwaters that accumulated on the Sixth Ring Road.

The lawmaker said every year, millions of dinars are spent on roads and the sewage network, and questioned where did the money go when roads were affected after the first rainfall. Kandari said he will not accept any unsubstantiated reasons for what happened and the ministry has to be held to account. He also accused the minister of deliberately obstructing the execution of a number of road projects that had already been approved and questioned for whose interest this was done.

Separately, the newly-elected Assembly's foreign relations committee yesterday elected opposition MP Abdulkarim Al-Kandari as its chairman, who said that there is an urgent need to activate the panel's role due to the grave situation in the region.

News in brief

Qatar denies meddling in Bahrain

DOHA: Qatar denied yesterday accusations it interfered in Bahrain's internal affairs after a Manama court sentenced head of the Shiite opposition Ali Salman to life in jail for spying for Doha. "Qatar condemns the mentioning of its name in Bahrain's political disputes and internal conflicts," Qatar's foreign ministry said in a statement. It added that Bahrain should not resort "to the politicization of the judiciary or use Qatar's name in favor of political calculation that has proven to be narrow-minded". — AFP

Iran accuses Israel of cyber attack

TEHRAN: Iran accused Israel yesterday of launching a failed cyber attack against its communications systems. "A regime whose record in using cyber weapons is clear from cases such as Stuxnet has tried this time to damage Iran's communication infrastructure," said Information Minister Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi tweeted. "We will follow up this hostile action through international forums," he said. His deputy Hamid Fattahi said technical teams had intercepted multiple attempts to infiltrate their systems early yesterday, and had been "strongly warded off". — AFP

Sisi hints no wage increases

CAIRO: President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi suggested yesterday that Egypt's civil servants may not get a wage increase this year as the government needs money to build new classrooms in overcrowded schools. Speaking at the World Youth Forum in Sharm El-Sheikh, Sisi said there was a need to build 250,000 new classrooms, which would cost 130 billion Egyptian pounds (\$7.3 billion). The government needs to find a solution, he said, adding: "I'm going to say something difficult. Make cuts in all the ministries. I'm going to say something even more difficult. We're not going to give raises this year to employees in Egypt." — Reuters

Khashoggi sons ask for body

WASHINGTON: The sons of murdered journalist Jamal Khashoggi have asked Saudi authorities to return the body of their father so the family can properly grieve, they told CNN in an interview aired Sunday. "I really hope that whatever happened wasn't painful for him, or it was quick. Or he had a peaceful death," Abdullah Khashoggi told the US network in Washington. His brother Salah said "all what we want right now is to bury him in Al Baqi (cemetery) in Madinah with the rest of his family". — AFP

Iran slams 'bullying' as US re-imposes tough curbs

WASHINGTON: The United States vowed yesterday to be "relentless" in countering Iran as sweeping sanctions took effect, but the Islamic republic defiantly promised to stand up to the "bullying" by Washington. US President Donald Trump's administration nonetheless issued eight exemptions from its demand on all countries to stop buying

Iranian oil, the country's largest export, amid bitter international opposition to the unilateral US sanctions.

Six months after Trump pulled out of an international agreement on ending Tehran's nuclear program, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the ultimate US goal was for Iran to make a "180-degree turn" and abandon its "revolutionary course". While stopping short of urging regime change, he reiterated demands for Iran to end policies rooted in the 1979 Islamic revolution including its support for regional proxies such as the Lebanese militia Hezbollah and its development of missiles.

"We hope a new agreement with Iran is possible, but until Iran makes changes in the 12 ways I listed in May, we will be

Continued on Page 24

Polls poised for verdict on Trump

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump's whirlwind campaign hit three states yesterday in the final effort to stop Democrats from breaking his Republicans' stranglehold on Congress in midterm elections seen as a referendum on the most divisive US president in decades. Cleveland, Ohio; Fort Wayne, Indiana; then Cape Girardeau,

Missouri: It was well after midnight before the real estate billionaire and populist showman was to get back to the White House - and only a few hours more before polls open today across the world's largest economy.

"Don't fall for the Suppression Game. Go out & VOTE. Remember, we now have perhaps the greatest Economy (JOBS) in the history of our Country!" he tweeted yesterday before setting off for the furious final round of campaigning. Trump is not on the ballot in the midterms, which see the entire House of Representatives and a third of the Senate up for grabs.

Continued on Page 24

Iraqi hotel a challenge for tribal tradition

RAMADI, Iraq: The opening of a new hotel is posing a challenge to tribal customs in western Iraq's Anbar province, where locals traditionally welcome outsiders into their homes. In the heart of Ramadi, the provincial capital, a tall building is lit up with neon lights. "Rose Plaza Hotel" reads a bright sign in Arabic and English. The 80-bed hotel, built by a young Iraqi businessman, has caused a

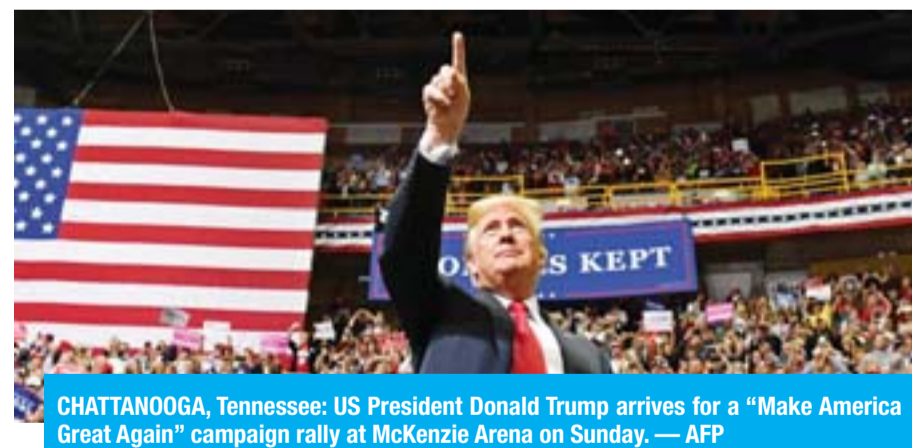
stir in Anbar, the vast desert province to the west of Baghdad that extends to the borders with Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Wearing a suit and with his hair slicked back, hotelier Mohammed Kassir stands ready to defend his project. "We are the province of generosity and hospitality," said the 29-year-old. "But it's a joke that a province which covers a third of Iraq, looks out onto three countries and is a commercial hub, doesn't have a hotel." Anbar has come far. A longtime bastion of the anti-US insurgency, it was later overrun by the Islamic State (IS) group and became off-limits to tourists or investors on business trips.

Continued on Page 24



A handout picture shows a Sayad missile fired from the Talash missile system during an air defense drill in an undisclosed location in Iran yesterday. — AFP



CHATTANOOGA, Tennessee: US President Donald Trump arrives for a "Make America Great Again" campaign rally at McKenzie Arena on Sunday. — AFP



RAMADI, Iraq: The Rose Plaza Hotel is pictured in the capital of Iraq's Anbar province on Oct 3, 2018. — AFP

Local

Premier receives delegations participating at second Gulf female journalists' forum



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with delegations participating at the second Gulf female journalists' forum. —KUNA

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received yesterday at Seif Palace, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri and the President of the Gulf Press Union Khalid Al-Malik. His Highness also received assis-

tant undersecretary of foreign media affairs at the information ministry Faisal Al-Mutalaqem, Chairperson of Kuwait Journalists' Association Fatima Hussein, Vice President of the Arab Journalists' Union Adnan Al-Rashed and the media delegations participating at the second Gulf female

journalists' forum held in Kuwait.

His Highness praised efforts exerted by Gulf media to support the development process, as well as its keenness to shed light on the achievements of GCC countries in all fields. His Highness also stressed the need for effective media participation in

bringing together viewpoints, strengthening ties of unity and avoiding anything that would divide the GCC countries. His Highness also praised the Gulf women's experience in press, stressing that Gulf women have been able to prove their position in media. —KUNA

Kuwait elected ITU Board member

DUBAI: Kuwait was elected yesterday as member of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Board for a four-year term. President of Kuwait's Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) Salem Al-Uthainah expressed in a statement to the press his satisfaction over winning the ITU council membership, which he dedicated to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Kuwait was elected member of the ITU Board following the Union internal voting on other posts, on sidelines of the 2018 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference held in Dubai.

Uthainah expressed gratitude to the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, namely the permanent representative at the UN and International Organizations in Geneva, Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim, for their efforts that paved the way for winning a seat in the international board. Kuwait has advanced significantly in the telecommunication field, ranking 37th globally over the past two years. It has been a member of the ITU since 1982.

Plenipotentiary conference

CITRA participated on Sunday in the 2018 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference held in Dubai and will last until November 16. Uthainah said in a statement that Kuwait's participation in this year's ITU Conference is one of the major steps towards adopting public policies and strategies in the telecommunication and information sector around the world. Uthainah pointed to the importance of the conference in creating an opportunity for the telecommunication sector on an international level during which the public policies and strategies are approved. He confirmed Kuwait's par-



DUBAI: Members of the Kuwaiti delegation participating at the 2018 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference. —KUNA

ticipation enhances cooperation and synergy between Kuwait and the member states to better serve the telecommunication and information technology sector. He also expressed gratitude to electing the Director of technical office management of the General Telecommunications and Information Technology Authority, Eng Sameera Mouden to Head the second committee of the conference (credentials committee), while also praising the participation of Kuwait's Foreign Ministry. The conference also included the elections of the Director of Telecommunication Standardization, ITU Telecommunication Development Director, as well as members of the Radio Regulation Board, to be announced tomorrow and Kuwait is one of the nominees. The Plenipotentiary Conference of the ITU is the most important conference in the world of communications and information technology, which outlines the global sector around the world in addition to determining the strategy to be followed by all associated entities.

Informatics Award

In other news, the ITU was named winner of the 12th edition of His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah Informatics Award, it was announced yesterday. ITU Secretary General Houlin Zhao will receive the award during a special ceremony to be held under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace later this month. "The ITU's winning of the award comes in recognition of its long and successful history in the world of information and communication," said Sheikha Aida Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Chairwoman of the Award's Board of Trustees. She praised the role played by the Union in issuing international technical standards, protocols and agreements related to allocating global radio waves, industrial orbits and developing international communication networks. The ITU includes 193 member states and 800 leading academic organizations and research institutions, manufacturers, emerging and innovative companies, Sheikh Aida pointed out. —KUNA

Foreign Minister receives Armenia's Ambassador

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received yesterday the New Armenian Ambassador to Kuwait Sarmen Baghdasaryan. The meeting focused on bilateral relations and means to develop them. Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah, Director of the Office of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Acting Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Dhari Al-Ajran and senior officials at the Foreign Ministry attended the meeting. Separately, Chief of Amiri Protocols Sheikh Khaled Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah received yesterday at Seif Palace Qatari Ambassador to Kuwait Bandar bin Mohammed Al-Attiyah.

In other news, Ambassador Ibdah Al-Dosseri presented copy of his credentials to Governor of Basra Assad Al-Aydani as Kuwait's Consul General. In a statement to the press yesterday, the Kuwaiti Consulate in Basra said this came when the Basra Governor received Dosseri. The two discussed strengthening of ties between both countries. The statement quoted Dosseri saying the meeting was part of a series of meetings with the local officials in Basra in the legislative and executive branches, to deepen bilateral ties. He added they also discussed many economic and humanitarian topics which serves the interests of both neighboring countries and their citizens. Dosseri hoped the pace of communication with all segments of Iraqi society would continue in the coming days. Meanwhile, the governor of Basra praised Kuwait's positive role in Basra and assured the local government would provide all forms of facilities to the Consulate. —KUNA

Zain main sponsor of third Media, Technology and Communication Forum

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, announced its main sponsorship of the third Media, Technology, and Communication Forum entitled "Leadership Strategies". The event was organized by the Arab Media Forum in collaboration with the Ministry of Information, the Arab Planning Institute, the Central Agency for Information Technology, the Kuwait Society for Media and Communication, and the Integrated Media Academy.

Zain's main sponsorship of the third Media, Technology, and Communication Forum came to highlight the company's distinguished PR and media involvement, as well as showcase its role as a leading private sector company launching several public relations and marketing campaigns all year round. Zain is keen on supporting this very important field, which carries significant and informative messaging to the public at large and the communications world as a whole, whether through traditional or modern media tools.

Zain took part in the forum's fifth panel discussion entitled 'Live experiences: using social media in the public and private sectors,' where the company showcased its leading experience in public relations and media, which is supported by the highest international standards. Zain's media strategy centers around serving customers, fulfilling their needs, and engaging



KUWAIT: Madhi Al-Khamees and Qusai Al-Shatti recognize Zain for its support to the event.

them in social activities through distinguished media presence.

The forum witnessed the presence of many experts and executives from both the public and private sectors who took part in the event's panel discussions, including ministry officials, representatives from companies operating in social media, journalists, legal experts, academics, specialists, as well as active figures from social and traditional media channels.

It is worth noting that public relations is not considered a secondary activity for companies and organiza-

tions, but rather an essential factor in their strategies and operations, as it is considered a significant element on many levels. Modern public relation strategies are carefully planned and implemented after conducting continuous research to ensure effective corporate communications.

Zain's main sponsorship of the third Media, Technology, and Communication Forum affirms the company's continuous efforts in reinforcing the media sector as well as highlighting its active and leading role in public relations and corporate communications.

Clean Fuel project 96.9% complete: KNPC

KUWAIT: Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) said Sunday 96.9 percent of its Clean Fuel project was completed by end of October.

The \$15.2 billion project, one of the world's largest, consists of two parts: upgrading existing units in Ahmadi, Shuaiba and Abdullah Port Refineries as well as building new ones. Mohammad Al-Mutairi, KNPC's CEO, told a news conference.

Mutairi said work was underway to building 22 new units in Abdullah Port, the most important of which was the crude oil distillation, with a production capacity of 264,000 barrels per day. There are 17 units being prepared in Ahmadi Refinery,

most importantly the coal production unit with a capacity of 37,000 barrels per day, Mutairi explained. He said KD 3.886 billion (around \$12.8 billion) were so far spent on the project, including KD 890 million (\$3 billion) to build a central operation unit, the largest in the Middle East.

KNPC signed funding agreements totaling \$6.245 billion, he said, and the company had spent \$5.545 billion. KNPC was established in 1960 as a shareholding company. The firm operated its first refinery in Shuaiba area in 1968. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives credentials of the New Armenian Ambassador to Kuwait Sarmen Baghdasaryan. —KUNA photos



Chief of Amiri Protocols Sheikh Khaled Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah meets with Qatari Ambassador to Kuwait Bandar bin Mohammed Al-Attiyah.



BAGHDAD: Ambassador Ibdah Al-Dosseri presents copy of his credentials to Governor of Basra Assad Al-Aydani as Kuwait's Consul General.

Local

Civil Service Commission targets Kuwaitization of 3,140 jobs: Jassar

Interior Ministry, PACI database link to help locate suspects

KUWAIT: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) continues to replace expatriate employees with Kuwaitis in different ministries and governmental bodies as part of its 'Kuwaitization' plan. Speaking to the press yesterday, the commission's Chairman Ahmad Al-Jassar said that CSC was currently targeting the Kuwaitization of 3,140 jobs of the total employments in the country. He added that these include 15 job descriptions fitting the criteria, with the exception of the ones in the medical field. The strategy, which was approved during the fiscal year 2017/2018, aims to provide Kuwaitis with job opportunities as part of the country's developmental plan, Jassar noted. The government has given instructions to each state department to achieve complete Kuwaitization of their respective staff by 2022, but this task has proven very challenging for certain departments including the education and health ministries which heavily rely on technical expatriate employees.

In other news, the government decided recently to assign Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-

Jarrah Al-Sabah to take responsibility over the Public Authority for Civil Information; a step that a security source described as 'important' because it leads to linking the two authorities' databases with each other. Such linkage will help law enforcement authorities locate suspects



15 job descriptions fit Kuwaitization criteria

using address data of citizens and expatriates stored in PACI's database, Al-Rai reported yesterday quoting the anonymous source. Furthermore, the link should contribute to the state's efforts in addressing the country's demographic imbalance by giving police easy access to information that help them fight visa trafficking and pursue residency violators, the source added.



The Civil Service Commission

Amir address 'guiding light' for govt: Cabinet

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Cabinet held its weekly session at Seif Palace yesterday under chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. The ministers, during the session affirmed that His Highness the Amir's recent address to the Parliament would be the 'guiding light' for the government in fulfilling its tasks.

Following the session, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh said that the cabinet examined contents of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's address at the National Assembly's third session of the 15th legislative term, held last week. His Highness the Amir, whose speech contained advices and sagacious guidelines, affirmed his advocacy of democracy as a thought,

method and practice. He had also called for adherence "to our democratic system and defending it in face of some negative practices, insensible stances and schemes that do not serve higher interests of the homeland; rather they threaten its stability and impede accomplishment."

The ministers noted that His Highness the Amir affirmed that freedoms of speech and opinion constitute some of the distinguished specifications of the Kuwaiti society, called for preserving and boosting such characteristics within the framework of abidance by the constitution and the laws. Moreover, His Highness the Amir expressed support for any serious step toward reforms, combating corruption, bringing the corrupt to accountability and protecting public funds, in addition to calling on the legislative and executive authorities to complete the process of accomplishments and economic reforms. Furthermore, His Highness the Amir in his address to the parliament warned against repercussions from the bitter and extraordinary situation in the region "in a period deemed the most dangerous for the presence and the future .. Where the region's stability and economy are targeted."

He also called for neglecting promoters of pessimism, sedition, rumors and frustration regarding the future, and that the State of Kuwait would always remain safe and secure, guarded by His Almighty, the people and their unity. The ministers expressed deep pride of the purposeful instructions by His Highness the Amir that reflected his concern and keenness on solidifying security and stability in the country, serving interests and promotion of Kuwait and its faithful people. The ministers affirmed His Highness the Amir would be the "guidance light for the government in performing its tasks while seeking to attain the aspired national objectives."

The ministers examined His Highness the Prime Minister's address to the same parliamentary session, which marked end of the legislators' recess, where the premier pledged to His Highness the Amir that the government would abide by the constitution, the laws, activate cooperation with the legislative authority, seek to advance its performance and functions of institutions. His Highness the Prime Minister also vowed to take all necessary measures to protect public funds, activate

the fight against corruption, emphasized continuation of the approach that would place administrative and economic reforms on top of the priorities, beside pursuing efforts aimed at overhauling government services, namely guaranteeing the right to education, securing health and housing care, jobs for the ambitious and qualified youth, continuing the social services which the government place in the lead of its concerns.

Moreover, His Highness the Premier affirmed the commitment to maintain the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), praising the noticeable role undertaken by His Highness the Amir, whose wisdom fortified Kuwait in the face of escalating regional events and their fallout. At another level, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah briefed the ministers about the recent visit by the Indian foreign minister to the country for discussing bilateral relations. During the visit, the Kuwaiti and Indian sides inked an agreement on mutual visa exemptions for holders of diplomatic, official and special passports and a memo of cooperation on employment of domestic helpers. — KUNA

News in brief

Amir sends condolences over Baghdad blast victims

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent yesterday cables of condolences to Iraqi President Barham Saleh and Prime Minister Adel Abdulmahdi over the victims of a series of explosions that targeted several locations in the capital Baghdad. In the cables, His Highness the Amir voiced the State of Kuwait's stern condemnation of such heinous crimes that go against all human values, reiterating at the same time its supportive stance of whatever measures the brotherly country take to safeguard its safety and security. His Highness also wished the wounded a speedy recovery. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables. — KUNA

Health Ministry rebuffs reports

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Ministry of Health categorically denied a report published in a daily newspaper of an alleged '\$3.5 billion' overseas treatment bill for a period of nine months. The Ministry, in a statement yesterday, said that what has been published lacks credibility, stressing that media institutions must be reliable and fact-check information received from sources. Furthermore, the statement pointed out that the overseas treatment budget is set under the approval and follow-up of the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank, calling on media outlets and social media platforms not to be influenced or misguided by false information, yet should shoulder its responsibility in conveying the truth to the public. — KUNA

Shuaiba Port resumes operations

KUWAIT: Kuwait Ports Authority (KPA) said that Shuaiba Port resumed operations yesterday at 11:30 am after weather had improved across the country. KPA announced Sunday that navigation has been suspended at the Port because of deteriorating weather condition. — KUNA

Natural reserve intruders pursued

KUWAIT: Chairperson of the Kuwaiti Voluntary Work Center Sheikh Amthal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah warned yesterday that legal action would be taken against anybody attempting to break into Sabah Al-Ahmad natural reserve. "Frequent cutting of fences surrounding the reserve were noticed lately with people storming into the area, causing severe damage to the wildlife and the environment," Sheikh Amthal noted. She assured the center is cooperating with the Environment Public Authority (EPA) and the Ministry of Interior to follow those violators and punish them. Sheikh Amthal called on people to report any violations noticed and send it with photos attached, to the Voluntary Work Center official website, www.kuwait-volunteers.com. — KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the Cabinet's meeting yesterday. — KUNA

Municipal Council Chairman proposes tourist buses

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Municipal Council Chairman Osama Humoud Al-Otaibi proposed allocating special bus stops outside all touristic attractions in Kuwait to link those sites with various destinations,

adding that this help reduce traffic congestion on roads leading to those attractions, avoiding the need to build more parking areas, facilitating families to reach more than one site during a day and helping visitors reach those sites in shorter times.

Pharmacists' allowances

Head of Kuwait Pharmaceutical Association Waleed Al-Shemmari announced plans to hold a meeting soon with the Civil Service Commission (CSC) to be attended by Health Minister Sheikh Dr Basel Al-Sabah to discuss pharmacists' allowances. Shemmari stressed that the association's recent board meeting discussed forming a special committee to inspect private clinics to make sure all regulations concerning prescriptions are respected.

Senior citizen found dead at Jahra stable

KUWAIT: A citizen's body was found decomposed in a Jahra stable, and it was recovered by the coroner to determine the cause of death. A citizen told police that his 74-year-old father was missing, so he went to the stable where his father used to spend time, and found his decomposed body. He identified him by his clothes.

Blackmail

Criminal detectives decided to deport a Syrian man who black-

mailed a Saudi woman and sent messages to her cousins in Saudi Arabia telling them he has the woman's pictures. A Saudi national told police that a Syrian man threatened his daughter after she left him when she realized her relationship with him was a mistake.

The suspect somehow got the numbers of her relatives in Saudi Arabia and sent them messages telling them he has the girl's pictures and that he will shame them. Detectives took over the case and identified the suspect, then followed him in his car and asked him to pull over, but he refused.

When he was forced to stop, he gave them his brother's ID, but failed to deceive them. The man attempted to escape on foot and entered a house, but was finally arrested. — Translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Rai

Thundershowers continue for second day

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Heavy rains hit Kuwait for the second straight day yesterday, as veteran astronomer Dr Saleh Al-Ojairi announced that rain will continue through November until January 2019, adding that this week's thundershowers are expected to continue through tomorrow. Fellow meteorologist Abdulaziz Al-Qarawi said meanwhile that weather throughout Kuwait is forecast to remain unsteady with active dust-triggering winds along with thundershowers. The current weather conditions are due to aerial low pressure amid the seasonal Sudan depression, bringing with it humidity-rich winds, he pointed out.

Teachers' shortage

The Ministry of Education (MoE) is suffering from a serious shortage in teaching staff members in various educational zones as a result of the Civil Service Commission's (CSC) new regulations, including banning the ministry from directly hiring teachers, said a senior educational source, noting that applications of many teachers who had passed local interviews were accordingly cancelled, leading to serious shortages in various subjects. The source added that MoE's coordination department is currently working on reviewing various staff to make sure they are fairly distributed to various schools by the next school year. In addition, the ministry will look into applications by Kuwaiti former teachers of subjects in which citizens are limited, to be recruited even if they had already received their indemnities, provided they pass interviews just like new recruits.

Complaints against police

The Ministry of Interior's (MoI) inspection department announced receiving around 750 complaints filed against security agents over the past 10 months, said security sources, noting that the complaints included abuse of power, negligence, violating military disciplinary laws and inaction. The sources added that penalties for the abovementioned violations vary between suspension, 1-2 months in prison and dishonorable discharge.

Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: Night view of the National Assembly, the Liberation Tower and other Kuwait City landmarks. — Photo by Hatem Al-Sheikh (KUNA)

Kuwait Times
ESTABLISHED 1961
THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

STAY CONNECTED

- Read Kuwait Times now on your phone for **FREE**
- Send Subscribe to **+965 944 88888**
- Enjoy the first daily paper in Kuwait on your phone

P.O. Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait
Tel: 24833199 - 24833358 - 24835616/7 | Fax: 24835620 - 24835621
E: info@kuwaittimes.net

Kuwaiti doctor gains patent from USPTO

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti physician Dr Meshl As'ad Al-Jarba gained a patent from the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) for his invention that works in facilitating surgeries and limiting the possibility of medical errors. Dr Jarba said in a statement to the press that his invention was a surgical tool used as a protection shield against unintentional mishaps during otorhinolaryngology and endoscopic surgeries.

This invention will facilitate the task of surgeons in performing procedures, decreasing risks to the patient's body tissues, he said. This invention, which is called Shield for electrosurgical Suction Coagulator, also helps amateur surgeons to improve their skills, he said. Jarba expressed his thanks to Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity (SAGC) for all the care it offers to Kuwaiti inventors in various specialties. He praised the



Kuwaiti physician Dr Meshl As'ad Al-Jarba receives his patent certificate from the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to Kuwaiti inventors in various domains, and highly endorsed the distinguished efforts by SAGC. — KUNA

Arabs' steel output soared: Chief unionist

AMMAN: President of the Arab Iron and Steel Union (AISU) Awad Al-Khaldi said yesterday Arab countries' output of long steel products have risen from five million tons to more than 60 million tons in 40 years. This industry in Arab countries have been impeded with some issues, namely dependence on costly imported materials, said Khaldi during the inauguration of the 13th Arab Steel Summit. Long steel products include hot-rolled bars, cold-rolled or drawn bars, rebar, railway rails, wires, ropes (stranded wires) and woven cloth of steel wire. Khaldi, of Kuwait, urged Arab steel industrialists to seek to depend on national resources, with scientific research and specialized studies for slashing cost of production, improving quality and boosting competition capacities. Earlier, Jordanian Minister of Industry and Trade Dr Tareq Al-Hamouri inaugurated the conference with a statement, emphasizing significance of this industry to enrich national income. More than 90 plants and factories have been members of the Algeria-headquartered AISU, founded 45 years ago. — KUNA



AMMAN: President of the Arab Iron and Steel Union (AISU) Awad Al-Khaldi speaks during the inauguration of the 13th Arab Steel Summit. — KUNA

CBK offers 25% discount on Milan tickets

KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) recently announced holding an inclusive partnership with Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) on the occasion of KAC's launch of new a destination to Milan, Italy. CBK offers through this partnership CBK credit card holders the chance to reclaim 25 percent of Milan flight fares when they pay with any CBK credit card on KAC's website or through KAC's smartphone application. Accordingly, CBK invites its credit card holders who wish to benefit from the offer to log on to CBK online for further details and use the offer on booking until December 5, 2018 and travelling until May 31, 2019.

Local

Raytheon launches cyber academy at KU's College of Engineering

In cooperation with the Department of Computer Engineering at Kuwait University

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: In cooperation with the Department of Computer Engineering at Kuwait University, Raytheon, a global technology and cybersecurity leader, yesterday launched a cyber academy program at the College of Engineering and Petroleum at Kuwait University's Khaldiya campus. The Raytheon Cyber Academy aims to develop students' cybersecurity skills and address the growing cyber talent gap around the world. "Cyber threats are on the rise globally and have become a concern shared by governments worldwide," said Gary Menke, Country Leader and President, Raytheon Kuwait. "Our partnership with Kuwait University will inspire the country's youth to pursue careers in cybersecurity and become Kuwait's future cyber defenders."

US Ambassador Lawrence Silverman said the workshop comes at an opportune time. "We at the US Embassy are in the middle of our two-week-long Discover America program, during which we highlight different areas of interaction between our countries, including education and training, as well as what different US companies are doing here in Kuwait that contributes to the development of Kuwait. And, of course, we just marked National Cybersecurity Awareness Month in the US. Cybersecurity is one of many areas of cooperation between our countries. I believe it is an area of great potential growth in our bilateral relationship," he said.

"The Department of State signed an agreement with CITRA in September during the Amir's visit to Washington to share best practices in the field and to improve the cybersecurity of both countries. This will not

only lead to enhanced cooperation between our governments, but provide new opportunities," Silverman said.

The ambassador mentioned that during the Amir's successful trip to Washington, he had a very good meeting with 15 CEOs of leading US companies. "The Amir's message to the CEOs was simple. Kuwait has a lot of development projects in process and they need the support of international companies to successfully complete these projects. His Highness asked for US firms to actively participate as Kuwait looks to utilize the latest, most effective technologies to develop new cities, new roads, a new university, improve its power system and its airport, expand oil exploration and build new petrochemical facilities and hospitals, develop the islands off the northern coast of Kuwait and improve defense and cyber capabilities," he added.

Silverman lauded the Raytheon and Kuwait University partnership with the ultimate goal for Kuwait University students to compete in the Global Cyber Challenge jointly organized by Raytheon and the University of Texas, San Antonio. "Last year, more than 230 US universities competed in this global cyber

challenge. The competition focuses on the operational aspect of managing and protecting an existing "commercial" network infrastructure, and competitors face challenges similar to real-world situations as they manage, protect and defend their infrastructure from live "Red Teams" that pose a threat to their defense strategy," he said. Through cybersecurity skills-building workshops, such as this week's program, Raytheon is focusing on the growing worldwide cyber talent gap. In a very useful ongoing series of articles, Forbes described cybersecurity as being "in its infancy", and highlighted a "lack of

the professional role of social security actuaries is essential.

In a dynamic context of demographic and economic change, recurrent challenges associated with contributory social security pension programs relate to their adequacy and sustainability. For actuaries, specialists and laymen alike, when discussing these important questions it is important to always frame the debate in terms of the multiple objectives of national contributory social security pensions programs. It is also necessary to take into account the different assumptions and intervening contextual factors that dictate how all national pensions programs are designed and financed. Owing to their varied institutional histories and different social, economic and demographic contexts, no two national pension programs are identical. The present-day factors that determine the adequacy and sustainability of pension programs also vary.

As part of its program of topics for discussion, it is to all these vitally important issues that the 19th ISSA International Conference of Social Security Actuaries, Statisticians and Investment Specialists will turn - the Conference in Kuwait, is being held at the invitation of the public institution for social security of Kuwait. To accompany this agenda point, and to provide an important reference source on this topic, a special issue of the International Social Security Review (Vol. 71, No.3), entitled Actuarial and financial reporting of social obligations, has been released.

Int'l social security conference kicks off today in Kuwait

KUWAIT: The 19th ISSA International Conference of Social Security Actuaries, Statisticians and Investment Specialists kicks off in Kuwait today. The two-day conference will address many issues related to the sustainability and adequacy of social security programs and pensions in particular.

The ISSA Country Profiles show the pension programs are the most common form of social security protection worldwide. Over recent decades the expansion of pension programs has been underpinned to an important extent by a heightened focus, both at the national and multilateral level, on achieving the eradication of poverty. The objectives of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals have been framed to meet this aim. As part of this, great store is given to the role of basic pensions, as key components of social protection floors.

Typically, basic pensions - sometimes called social pensions - are tax-financed. Being more readily capable of extending coverage, especially to those without access to contributory social security pensions, they facilitate social and economic inclusion and income security.

Given the focus on efforts to develop basic pensions internationally, it might be thought that most countries' pension systems are characterized by tax-financed basic pension provision and that the role of pensions is to tackle old-age poverty only.

In fact, many countries have contributory social security pension programs, which are financed in the main by monthly contributions paid by employers and employees. Linking benefit amounts to contributions is meant to ensure that benefit levels are adequate for large groups of the population, in a manner that tax-financed basic pensions, by definition, never aim to be. The feasibility of tax-financed pensions is presented commonly as a question of fiscal space. In a similar manner, the abilities of countries and their economic actors to adequately finance contributory programs should take into account the question of contributory space. We have witnessed an international trend in falling levels of corporation tax rates over the last two decades. This would suggest that, with political will, there is leeway to ensure that contributory financing is adequate.

In contrast to the primary poverty-alleviating role attributed to basic pensions, contributory social security pensions have multiple objectives. For the covered population, contributory social security pensions permit income smoothing across the life course and they offer insurance against longevity and disability (and premature death, for dependent survivors). As key elements of workers' fundamental social and labor rights, they help foster national economic growth, decent work, safe workplaces and social cohesion. The pensions also work alongside national fiscal policies to support the objectives of income redistribution and, indeed, also help to reduce poverty.

Contributory pension programs represent, both, an intra-generational and an intergenerational social contract, simultaneously collected contributions and paying benefits promised to successive generations. The ability of a pension programmed to continue to meet its pension promises depends on a number of factors, of which demographic and economic factors are paramount. As set out in the ILO-ISSA Guidelines on Actuarial Work for Social Security, it is in appropriately measuring and assessing these factors that

Cyber threats on the rise



KUWAIT: Officials attend a ceremony held yesterday to launch a cyber academy program at the College of Engineering and Petroleum at Kuwait University's Khaldiya campus. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

qualified personnel across the industry at all levels of security operations."

Mohammad Al-Failakawi, Head of the Computer Engineering Department at the Faculty of Engineering and Petroleum at Kuwait University said, "The Cyber Academy program is held daily from 5 pm to 8 pm at the College of Engineering and Petroleum until November 8, with the participation of 17 students from the Department of Computer Engineering. A team of professional instructors from the United States will provide

participants with basic knowledge and core security concepts around Windows 10 and Windows Server 2016 and include 16 hours of learning, hands-on experience, and competitive activities."

The workshop competition winners will be recognized and announced at the end of the workshop on Nov 8. Raytheon's Cyber Academy, first launched in the United Arab Emirates in 2016, is being offered in international markets strategically important to Raytheon's business.

Sheikh Jaber Causeway - Doha link 97.2% complete

KUWAIT: The Doha link of the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Causeway is at 97.2 percent completion. The Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) said yesterday. Director General of PART Eng Ahmad Al-Hassan said that the project aims linking the areas of Shuwaikh and Doha via a causeway bridge located southwest of Kuwait Bay.

The 12.4 kilometers' bridge covers land and water masses, said the PART chief, adding that it consists of three lanes for each side of the road in addition to safety lanes. He revealed that the Doha-link cost around KD 165.7 million (around \$545 million). The Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah causeway project also consists of the main bridge aimed to link Shuwaikh area with Al-Subbiya north of Kuwait city. PART is supervising 74 infrastructure and roads projects at a cost of KD 500 million (around \$1.65 billion).

The Interior Ministry's traffic department had announced that a bridge on the extension of the



Doha link was opened yesterday. It also announced opening yesterday the bridge of Al-Ghous Street with the intersection of Street 250 near Abu Fatira and Qurai, in cooperation with PART. It urged motorists to be cautious and comply with speed limits and follow instructions.

AUK... Driven by Quality

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING (BE) DEGREE PROGRAM

ABET Engineering Accreditation Commission

COMPUTER SCIENCE (BSc) DEGREE PROGRAM

ABET Computing Accreditation Commission

COMPUTER ENGINEERING (BE) DEGREE PROGRAM

ABET Engineering Accreditation Commission

THE COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

AAL American Academy for Liberal Education

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (BBA) DEGREE PROGRAMS

ACBSP GLOBAL BUSINESS ACCREDITATION

INTENSIVE ENGLISH PROGRAM

CEA

2018

2016

2011

2009

AUK WEBSITE

Tel: 1-802040 / (+965) 2224-8399 Ext: 3148 Fax: (+965) 2224-8379

admissions@auk.edu.kw | www.auk.edu.kw

The American University of Kuwait | @AUKtweets | @auk_kuwait | AUKVideos

AUK is institutionally accredited by the Privem Universities Council in the State of Kuwait, and has a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation with Dartmouth College (Hanover, New Hampshire - USA).

LEARN • THINK • BECOME



'Total disaster' as Italy storms kill 30

Facebook's Cameroon problem: Online hate fuels conflict

Page 7

Page 8



BANGKOK: Photo shows Pakistani passports of family members of Pakistani-Christian refugees seeking refuge in a small apartment in Bangkok suburb after fleeing persecution in Pakistan. —AFP

Pakistani Christians fear arrest in Thailand

Life in the shadows: Sharpest worry is not poverty but arrest

BANGKOK: His family of seven share two small, squalid rooms in a cockroach-infested Bangkok apartment. But like many Pakistani Christians living illegally in Thailand, Farooz's sharpest worry is not poverty but arrest. There is no safe return to the homeland they fled due to religious persecution, where Islamist invective surged higher last week after the release of Asia Bibi on blasphemy charges.

Christians make up less than two percent of Pakistan's Muslim-majority population, but are the sporadic targets of hardline Islamists. Churches have been bombed while pernicious charges of blasphemy are easily pinned on the group, often to settle personal scores. Mass protests against last week's pardon of Asia Bibi - a Christian woman on death row since 2010 over allegations of insulting Islam - have put conditions for the minority in Pakistan back under the spotlight. It has also reminded those who fled, thousands of whom live in the shadows in Bangkok, what awaits if they return.

"We cannot go back, our country does not accept us, and no other country wants to take us ... so we are trapped here in Thailand," says Farooz, who gave an alias to avoid being identified by police. Yet the minority are deprived refugee rights in Thailand, and appear increasingly unwelcome as a police crackdown takes place. Aged 15, Farooz is erudite and multi-lingual-he

speaks Urdu, Punjabi, English and Thai. But neither he nor his three younger siblings have gone to school for the last five years. Instead, they are forced to pass the days inside-unable to work legally and facing the thinly-disguised scorn of their Thai neighbors.

Thailand is not a signatory to UN conventions protecting refugees. But it used to be a sanctuary of sorts, where relaxed visa rules allowed entry and officials could be enticed into turning a blind eye to overstayers. Thai immigration police say they have detained dozens of the minority in recent weeks for overstaying visas or entering the country illegally. Around 70 of those detained chose voluntary repatriation-many more who were not arrested are believed to have followed.

"They have decided to return to a place where animosity towards them is at its peak rather than face indefinite detention in Bangkok," says Wilson Chowdhry, of the British Pakistani Christian Association, which helps refugees in Thailand. "They will face persecution, some may be accused of blasphemy ... none have any money or property left as they sold it to get to Thailand," Chowdhry added. Pakistani-Christians in Bangkok numbered around 7,400 two years ago, advocacy groups say. Now around 3,000 remain, some registered with the UNHCR, the rest living underground. Around 1,000 were resettled to "third countries" by the UNHCR or under private sponsorship schemes.

Children of nowhere

Farooz's family came to Thailand in 2013 from Gojra, in Pakistan's Punjab province, the site of a pogrom by Muslim hardliners in 2009 that resulted in seven Christians being burned to death. His father says he witnessed the murder of the Christians and subsequently became a target of death threats and unsubstantiated legal claims aimed at silencing him. The near-daily threats eventually prompted the family to leave. But in Thailand they have found themselves in an administrative bind. With their tourist visas long-expired, the family were detained by Thai authorities in an immigration sweep in 2015. They were eventually released on bail on condition they report to the police every month. That is despite the UNHCR recognizing the family as refugees.

But bureaucracy also dogs their resettlement case. The UNHCR says it needs further documents from Pakistani authorities to put the family on the official pending list for resettlement. Yet the Pakistan Embassy in Bangkok says those documents can only be issued in the country they fled. So Farooz and his family wait it out in Thailand, reliant on charity handouts, occasional menial work and each other. Sobbing quietly, his mother says the impermanence has worn the family down. "I worry for children... what will happen to them without education? Where will they belong?" she says. "I want to see my mother again, my family... my home. But they will kill us if we have to go back." —AFP

Pakistan PM under fire over deal with Islamist hardliners

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan will return home to a deepening political crisis yesterday, with pressure mounting over a deal struck with Islamists hardliners that analysts say has eroded faith in his government. Khan spent the last four days on a state visit to China, trying to win some desperately needed relief for his country's parlous finances, as his homeland fractured over the fate of Asia Bibi—a Christian woman cleared of blasphemy charges last week by the Supreme Court.

The overturning of her conviction, which Pakistan's top judges ruled was based on flimsy evidence, ended Bibi's eight year ordeal on death row. But it enraged Islamists hardliners who took to the streets, blockaded major cities and demanded her immediate execution. Blasphemy is an incendiary charge in Muslim-majority Pakistan, where even the whiff of an unsubstantiated allegation of insulting Islam can spark death at the hands of mobs. The protests were only brought to an end once Khan's administration agreed to a deal with the hardliners, where Bibi would remain in Pakistan while a final review of the Supreme Court's ruling takes place. Many critics saw the climbdown as another capitulation to Islamist hardliners who called for the assassination of the country's Supreme Court justices and mutiny against the army's top brass in the ruling's wake. "The government seems to be directionless and it does not seem to have a proper strategy," said analyst Fasi Zaka. "The government has just bought time and we're still waiting to see what they do."

Praise dissipates

Only a few days earlier, Khan had been riding a wave of positive energy. Shortly before his departure for China he delivered a speech vowing to confront the protesters head on, winning widespread praise from those detractors who had long accused him of courting extremists and for defending the blasphemy laws. The protests calling for Bibi's execution were being headed by the Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan party (TLP), which is known for whipping up anger over blasphemy and successfully achieved a minister's resignation under the previous administration in 2017 by blockading roads into Islamabad for more than three weeks.

Many critics of Khan noted that it was the second time his young administration had folded to TLP demands after his government sacked an economics advisor belonging to the persecuted Ahmadi religious minority following pressure from its outspoken leader Khadim Hussain Rizvi. "Khan may have won the election, but it is Rizvi who seems to be ruling Pakistan today," wrote columnist Fahd Husain in an editorial published in the English daily the Express Tribune over the weekend.

"The government must act against the TLP to sustain its popularity," added security analyst Amir Rana. "The government looks weak and fragile." The TLP issued a warning yesterday saying they were prepared to take to the streets again as reports claimed that dozens of the group's activists had been arrested. "If you breach the agreement then remember that the entire country will stand up against you," said TLP leader Afzal Qadri in a Facebook post. —AFP

Lanka heads for showdown as Rajapakse rallies support

COLOMBO: Former Sri Lankan president Mahinda Rajapakse rallied tens of thousands of supporters in a show of strength yesterday even as the parliament's speaker refused to recognize his controversial appointment as prime minister. Busloads of men and women from around the country descended on the capital as Rajapakse thanked President Maithripala Sirisena for sacking Ranil Wickremesinghe and appointing him in his place. The move on Oct 26 triggered an unprecedented constitutional crisis, plunging the island into political turmoil.

"We have united to work for the people," Rajapakse said, referring to their previous rivalry when Sirisena defeated him for the presidency in 2015. Sirisena was supported by Wickremesinghe three years ago but the two men have gradually drifted apart, leading to Wickremesinghe's shock sacking last month. Sirisena has suspended parliament, allowing Rajapakse time to tempt defectors from other parties and prove his majority.

But parliament's speaker Karu Jayasuriya warned yesterday the president's actions were illegal and he would not recognize Rajapakse as prime minister. "Until the new faction (of Rajapakse) is able to prove a majority in parliament, I will recognize the situation that prevailed prior to October 26," Jayasuriya said in his strongest statement yet on the crisis. Former strongman Rajapakse remains a popular but polarizing figure in Sri Lanka. In 2009 his iron-fisted rule ended a long and bloody civil war that claimed 100,000 lives. His decade in power was also marred by serious allegations of rights abuses, corruption, forced disappearances and the persecution of the island's sizeable Tamil minority.

During yesterday's rally Rajapakse urged smaller parties, which have emerged as kingmakers, to support him over Wickremesinghe. Minority Tamils and a small leftist group have



COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's former president and newly-appointed Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapakse (left) speaks with President Maithripala Sirisena at a rally yesterday. —AFP

indicated that they will oppose Rajapakse, however. Sirisena's suspension has prevented Wickremesinghe from proving his majority on the floor of the house. "I have to agree with the majority of parliament who believe that the president's actions are undemocratic, unconstitutional and against all norms of parliamentary procedure," Jayasuriya, who holds a neutral position in parliament, said yesterday.

Sirisena announced on Sunday that parliament would reconvene on Nov 14, a week later than he had promised, prolonging

the power struggle that has crippled the country. Addressing his first public rally with Rajapakse since triggering the crisis, Sirisena vowed not to retreat from his hardline position. "I will not take a step back, I will keep moving forward," he said, telling opponents to accept his decision. Sirisena has pressed ahead with forming a new government, naming an ally to a senior leadership post in parliament, despite opposition. "Assumed the Office of Leader of the House in Sri Lanka parliament," Dinesh Gunawardena said on Twitter yesterday. —AFP

International

Facebook's Cameroon problem: Online hate fuels conflict, fear

Government used 'cannibalism' video to justify clampdown

YAOUNDE: A video link posted on Facebook on June 20 showed a man cooking human body parts in a pot over a wood fire. In Cameroon, the footage went viral. Some Facebook users said the man was a cannibal and that the video was shot in the country's English-speaking west, where separatist insurgents are fighting to create a break-away state. Local websites quickly debunked this notion. The man in the video was not a separatist fighter or cannibal, and the body parts were not real. The clip was taken on a Nigerian film set and uploaded to Instagram on June 17 by make-up artist Hakeem Onilogbo, who uses the platform to showcase his work.

But the video's rapid spread raises questions about Facebook's ability to police millions of posts each day and crack down on hate speech in a country where internet use is rising fast, social media are used for political ends and the company has no permanent physical presence. The day the link was posted on Facebook, a member of the government brought the video to the attention of international diplomats in the capital, Yaounde, via the WhatsApp messaging service, according to messages seen by Reuters.

Five days later, Cameroon's minister for territorial administration cited it as justification for an army clampdown against the secessionists that was already under way in the Anglophone regions. The minister, Paul Atanga Nji, compared the rebellion-over decades of perceived marginalization by the French-speaking majority to an Islamist insurgency waged by the Nigeria-based militant group Boko Haram which has killed 30,000 people. "Boko Haram committed atrocities, but they did not cut up humans and cook them in pots," the minister said in comments broadcast on state television and widely reported in Cameroon.

Nji did not respond to requests for comment. Government spokesman Issa Tchiroma Bakary said that in future the government would work to verify information before comment-

ing, Facebook said the video had not been reported by users and that it could not comment further on the clip. It was no longer available on the site by late October. A senior Facebook official said tackling misinformation in Cameroon was a priority for the company, which acknowledges more needs to be done. "We're prioritizing countries where we've already seen how quickly online rumors can fuel violence, such as Myanmar and Cameroon," said Ebele Okobi, Director of Africa Public Policy at Facebook.

Under fire

Facebook is under fire for carrying misleading information, including in the United States and Britain, and over posts against the Muslim Rohingya minority in Myanmar which have had deadly consequences. Sri Lankan authorities briefly banned Facebook this year because the government said it was fueling violence between Buddhists and Muslims. In India, messages on Facebook-owned WhatsApp have been linked to attacks on religious minorities. In Cameroon, Facebook has been used both to incite violence and to make threatening posts. Simon Munzu, a former United Nations representative, said he was the target of death threats on Facebook after it was announced in July that he would help organize negotiations in the separatist conflict. Afraid, Munzu went to stay with friends.

Facebook removed the posts in October, after it was made aware of them by Reuters, saying they violated company standards. Esther Omam, who runs a non-governmental organization (NGO) called Reach Out, hid at a church and

then fled to the Francophone region after receiving death threats from separatists following a peace march which she led, she said. "The crisis has destroyed my life and my family," she said. "I cannot work anymore. My family is divided. My husband is elsewhere, my children are elsewhere."

Facebook has no staff operating permanently in Cameroon and says it monitors the country from Britain and the United States. It has an Africa-focused team that frequently visits the region, and has partnered with NGOs and civil society in Cameroon in recent months to combat hate speech. This included paying several thousand dollars to civil society to help organize training sessions for journalists to spot falsehoods online, representatives from two groups involved told Reuters. Some groups also flag offensive posts to Facebook.

Facebook has removed pages and accounts related to the separatist conflict, and is working to slow the spread of kidnapping videos, the company said. It declined to say how many people it had helping it in Cameroon, how much money it had so far invested or how many posts it had taken down. Reuters found dozens of pages posted in recent months showing graphic images in Cameroon, some of which were months old. One Facebook user on July 18 posted a picture of the decapitated body of a Cameroonian policeman lying in a gutter, and said the image gave him joy.

The same day, separatist spokesman Ivo Tapang applauded the killing of two Cameroonian soldiers and linked to a website raising funds for guns, ammunition and grenade launchers. Tapang did not respond to requests for comment.

A Facebook spokeswoman said the company was unaware of the posts before Reuters pointed them out but that they were both removed after review. It is against Facebook rules to celebrate suffering or crowdfund for arms, she said.

Facebook has artificial intelligence that it uses globally to detect problematic posts. But in Cameroon, it does not have a consortium of fact-checking companies to monitor posts-as it does in the United States. Leading civil society figures in Cameroon say Facebook needs more resources and faces an increasingly difficult task as internet use grows. "It is not possible to stop misinformation on Facebook," said Maximilienne Ngo Mbe, executive director of REDHAC, a civil society group that has organised training sessions and flags indecent posts to Facebook.

No easy fix

The number of people with internet access in Cameroon rose from 0.86 million in 2010 to 5.9 million in 2016, about a quarter of the population, according to the International Telecommunications Union, a UN agency. The government shut down the internet in English-speaking regions for three months last year because of the unrest. After service resumed in April 2017, Facebook was the main outlet for people speaking out against the army crackdown, in which soldiers razed villages and shot dead unarmed civilians.

But misleading and hateful posts have persisted, groups that monitor posts say, echoing issues Facebook sees worldwide. Facebook is not the only service facing a battle to tackle misinformation and hate speech. Offensive videos and images are posted on Twitter or transmitted by WhatsApp. WhatsApp cannot view private, encrypted conversations, a WhatsApp spokeswoman said, so detecting hate speech there is harder. A Twitter spokeswoman said it prohibits the promotion of violence and encourages users to flag those posts.—Reuters



Social media posts inciting violence

Madagascar: The troubled vanilla island

ANTANANARIVO: The Indian Ocean island of Madagascar is the leading global producer of vanilla and blessed with a bountiful biodiversity, yet it remains one of the poorest countries in the world. Here is some background:

Fourth largest island

Stretching across 587,000 square kilometers, Madagascar is the world's fourth largest island, bigger than Spain or Thailand in size. The island country lies just over 400 kilometers off the southeastern coast of Africa and is home to a population of nearly 25 million people (2016, World Bank), including 18 ethnic groups. Madagascar is frequently exposed to extreme weather events, such as tropical storms, flooding and drought. One of the most powerful cyclones in recent years, Enawo, claimed nearly 80 lives on the island in March 2017. While it is renowned for its luscious biodiversity, some of this is under threat including critically endangered lemurs, the rare and ruby-colored rosewood, and various tortoises and tur-

ples. Wildlife smuggling and trafficking of its abundant natural wealth remains a national concern.

Political divisions

The former French colony, which gained independence in 1960, has been mired in political division and upheaval for decades. A disputed 2001 presidential election led to violent clashes that ended with Marc Ravalomanana, the mayor of the capital, taking power. The outgoing leader was Didier Ratsiraka, a one-time Marxist who had ruled since 1975 and went into exile. Ravalomanana was toppled in 2009 by another Antananarivo mayor, Andry Rajoelina, in an army-backed coup. But Rajoelina was disqualified as a candidate in 2013 elections for his links to the country's troubled past, as were Ravalomanana's wife and Ratsiraka. Protests erupted again in April 2018 over claims that laws ahead of the presidential vote would see certain candidates barred. After weeks of unrest and calls for him to quit, President Hery Rajaonarimampianina was forced to replace his government with a "consensus" administration in June 2018.

Vanilla, sapphires, malnutrition

Heavily reliant on international aid, Madagascar has since 2016 registered annual growth of more than four percent, the World Bank says. But most people have not benefited from the improved economic

port of the army. Ravalomanana resigns in March. He takes refuge in South Africa, is sentenced in absentia in 2010 to life in prison and hard labor for the death of protesters in the 2009 unrest. He is then arrested in 2014 after returning to Madagascar, but his sentence is lifted and he is freed from house arrest in 2015.

2009-2014: Rajoelina

In March 2009, Rajoelina seizes power from Ravalomanana with the backing of the military. The international community denounces what it deems a coup d'etat and for nearly four years foreign aid and investment is frozen, driving the island deeper into poverty. The main political factions in the country sign an accord in September 2011 to draw up a roadmap to guide Madagascar to elections.

2014-2018: Rajaonarimampianina

In December 2013 with the support of the outgoing regime, Hery Rajaonarimampianina wins the presidential election, taking over at the start of 2014. Neither Ravalomanana nor Rajoelina were running against him in the vote as the international community feared their participation would reignite political turmoil on the island. Less than 18 months later however, in May 2015, the country's parliament votes overwhelmingly to dismiss Rajaonarimampianina for alleged constitutional violations and general incompetence. Rajaonarimampianina challenges the legality of the move and in mid-June the country's



TOLIARA: A man dangles from an electricity pole as he watches supporters of Madagascar presidential candidate Andry Rajoelina, streaming towards a rally in Tulear yesterday. —AFP

situation with 76 percent living in extreme poverty. The country supplies about 80 percent of global vanilla bean stocks and is also one of the world's leading producers of sapphires. Its agriculture sector, the main source of income for most people, is vulnerable to its regular natural disasters.

Rice production, for example, fell by about 20 percent from 2016 which led to

unbearable price hikes, according to the World Bank. Madagascar has the sixth highest rate of malnutrition in the world, with nearly half of all Malagasy children under the age of five suffering from chronic malnutrition according to Unicef. The impoverished nation has among the highest global levels of illiterate children. Only about 13 percent of its population has access to electricity.—AFP



TOLIARA: A driver of an oxen pulled cart wears a t-shirt of the Madagascar presidential candidate Andry Rajoelina while ferrying tourists from the boat into the port in Tulear. —AFP

constitutional court throws out the impeachment demand.

Between April and June 2018 demonstrators take to Antananarivo's central square in protest over Rajaonarimampianina's efforts to change electoral laws that opponents say are intended to favour his party. The courts overturn the proposals but the protests turn into a full-blown movement to oust

Rajaonarimampianina. To avert the breakdown of Madagascar's political system, the Constitutional Court orders the formation of a "consensus" government to stage the polls by the end of the year. Rajaonarimampianina offers his resignation on September 7 as required by the constitution, but he eyes a new presidential mandate in the November 7 vote.—AFP

Madagascar: Three presidents, three crises

ANTANANARIVO: Madagascar's past three presidents, all in the running against 43 other candidates in the presidential vote on November 7, each had their terms tarnished by political crises. Here is a look back at the turbulent recent history of the Indian Ocean island:

2002-2009: Ravalomanana

Marc Ravalomanana, a former milkman turned millionaire milk mogul is declared winner of the presidential election in 2002 after a crisis lasting nearly seven months against outgoing leader Didier Ratsiraka who disputed the results. Ravalomanana is reelected in 2006. In 2009, Andry Rajoelina, a baby-faced ex-party planner and media boss who became mayor of the capital Antananarivo, emerges as an opposition leader denouncing attacks on freedoms under Ravalomanana. The government had shut down in 2008 his TV channel after it broadcast an interview with ex-president Ratsiraka, exiled since 2002. Between January 26 and February 7, 2009, protests and clashes between Rajoelina supporters and the presidential guard leave around 100 people dead. Having lost the sup-

ported around both the north and south of Hodeida, where clashes have left dozens dead. The city and its port have been controlled by the Houthis - Iran-backed Shiite insurgents who hail from northern Yemen - since 2014 along with the capital Sanaa. Rebels and government sources both reported intense fighting in the area yesterday, despite calls by the UN and the United States - which provides military support to the Saudi-led camp - for an end to the war.

A source in the Saudi-led coalition told AFP the clashes were not "offensive operations", adding that the alliance was "committed to keeping the Hodeida port open". But three officials with the Yemeni military said fighting continued to flare around Hodeida, whose port is the entry point for three quarters of the country's imports. The head of the Houthis' revolutionary council, Mohammed Ali Al-Houthi yesterday reported a "military escalation by the coalition," slamming

the operation as "a strenuous attempt to block talks aimed at ending the war and finding peace".

Renewed offensive?

Yemeni military officials said the coalition had sent fighter jets and Apache attack helicopters Monday morning to back up troops on the ground around Hodeida. The officials say government forces are trying to advance on the outskirts of Hodeida with the aim of surrounding the city and cutting off a major rebel supply route. The coalition source however said the government alliance was "committed to de-escalating hostilities in Yemen and strongly supportive of the UN envoy's political process". "If the Houthis fail to show up for peace talks again, this might lead (us) to restart the offensive operation in Hodeida," the source said. "The humanitarian situation in Yemen is unacceptable.—AFP

Yemen clashes rage; 'Saudi-led coalition committed to peace'

ADEN: Battles raged yesterday near a Yemeni port crucial for humanitarian aid, but Saudi Arabia and its allies said they were committed to de-escalating hostilities with rebels as calls for a ceasefire mount. The United Nations has appealed for urgent peace talks and warned that an assault on the Red Sea port city of Hodeida would threaten millions of lives.

Yemeni government forces, backed by a regional military coalition led by Saudi Arabia and the UAE, say they are now

79 students abducted in restive Cameroon

YAOUNDE: Seventy-nine school students were kidnapped yesterday in an English-speaking region of Cameroon where separatists are fighting an armed campaign for independence, a government source said. The students were abducted along with their principal, a teacher and a driver, the official said, as a source at the school confirmed the kidnapping of the pupils.

They were enrolled at the Presbyterian Secondary School in Bamenda, capital of Cameroon's Northwest Region—one of two regions hit by attacks by anglophone militants that have met with a brutal crackdown by the authorities. "The search for the hostages has been launched—every man has been called in," the government source said, speaking after a crisis meeting. The kidnapping—the gravest incident so far in 13 months of unrest—coincides with an upsurge of political tensions in the majority French-speaking country.

It comes after elections on October 7 that saw President Paul Biya, 85, who has ruled the country with an iron fist for 35 years, secure a seventh term in office. Biya was credited with 71.3 percent of the vote, although the ballot was marred by allegations of widespread fraud, low voter turnout and violence. He takes his oath of office today. Around a fifth of Cameroon's 22 million people are English-speaking—a minority whose presence dates back to the colonial period. Cameroon, once a German colony, was divided between Britain and France after World War I.

The French colony gained independence in 1960, becoming Cameroon. The following year, the British-ruled Southern Cameroons was amalgamated into it, giving rise to the Northwest and Southwest regions. But resentment at perceived discrimination at the hands of the francophone majority, especially in education and the judiciary, began to build. In 2016, demands for greater autonomy grew but met with a rebuff by Biya. As radicals took ascendancy, the anglophone movement declared the creation of the "Republic of Ambazonia" in the Northwest and neighboring Southwest Region on October 1, 2017. No country has recognized the self-declared state.

The separatists have gunned down troops and police, boycotted and torched schools and attacked other perceived symbols of the Cameroonian state. The authorities have responded with a massive crackdown by police and troops. At least 400 civilians have been killed this year as well as more than 175 members of the security forces, according to a toll compiled by non-governmental organizations. According to UN figures, 246,000 people in the Southwest Region have fled their homes, and 25,000 have sought shelter in neighboring Nigeria, many of them living hand-to-mouth in the forests. Estimates of displaced people in the Northwest Region are not available.—AFP



TAEZ: Yemeni boy Ghazi Ali bin Ali, 10, suffering from severe malnutrition lies on a bed at a hospital in Jabal Habashi on the outskirts of the city of Taiz. —AFP

International

Devastating storms and floods spotlight Italy's illegal housing

'Total disaster' as storms kill at least 30

ROME: Devastating floods in Italy that saw an entire family killed when their home was engulfed in water triggered a bitter row yesterday over the country's vast illegal housing problem. Rains and winds continued to batter the north while a shell-shocked Sicily prepared to bury its dead after a week of violent storms which took over 30 lives. Nine members of a single family, including children aged one, three and 15, drowned overnight Saturday after a river burst its banks in the coastal town of Casteldaccia, submerging their rented villa in water and mud.

Survivor Giuseppe Giordano, 35, who had left the house on an errand with one of his children, lost his wife, two other children, his parents, brother, and sister, his nephew and the boy's grandmother. Little Rachele Giordano's open coffin was being watched over by grieving family friends in a church in Palermo. The one-year old will be buried along with her Mickey and Minnie Mouse toys, local media reported. A mass funeral for the family was set to take place in the city's cathedral on Tuesday. Italy's deputy prime minister Matteo Salvini, head of the far-right League, enraged many by blaming "armchair environmentalism" for the widespread devastation, which hit the Veneto region hardest.

After flying over Casteldaccia on Sunday, Sicilian prosecutor Ambrogio Cartosio described scenes of "total disaster". Officials have opened an investigation to determine whether houses built near the river had complied with safety norms. In a separate incident in Sicily, a 44-year-old man was found dead in his car near Vicari, also in the Palermo region. He had been trying to reach a service station, where he was the manager, to help a colleague trapped there. A 20-year-old passenger in the car with him is still missing.



9 members of a family drown

'How many deaths?'

Critics pointed instead to the scourge of illegal housing. The villa in Sicily had been built too close to the river, violating safety norms, and the owners had been ordered to demolish it in 2008, but were in the process of appealing, Casteldaccia's mayor said. Out of every 100 new builds in Italy, almost 20 are illegal, according to the national statistics institute (ISTAT). While unauthorized construction stands at 6.7 percent in the north, it rises to 19 percent in central Italy and shoots up to 47 percent in southern Italy, meaning almost one in every two houses there are illegal. In the Campania region, a jaw-dropping 64 percent of buildings are thrown up without planning permission. Of the 16,500 or so subject to a demolition order between 2004 and 2018, only 496 were knocked down.

Casteldaccia's former mayor Fabio Spatafora said cash-strapped councils cannot afford to deal with the problem. "If the owner does not comply with the demolition order, the council is obliged to buy the property or knock it down, but often-as in the case of Casteldaccia-it doesn't have the funds," he said. He rubbished the claim that demolitions would leave people homeless, saying many of the properties were holiday lets. "How many deaths and how many tragedies do there have to be before we realize that the only real public works needed in our country are those to make our territories safe?" said Stefano Ciagani, head of Italy's environmentalist lobby Legambiente.

'Crocodile tears'

"We've been saying it for 40 years. Houses built on riverbeds, because in Italy there's always an amnesty around the corner." "Sadly, every tragedy we have to put up with crocodile tears from those who turned a



CASTELDACCIA: Photo shows the flooded river and house where nine people of the same family died after a small river burst its banks in Casteldaccia near Palermo on the southern Italian island of Sicily. —AFP

blind eye and favored illegal construction," he said. Italy's anti-establishment Five Star party (M5S), which is governing in a coalition with the far-right League, pledged during its election campaign to tackle the deadly problem. It insisted it would not support amnesties, which are seen by many as simply encouraging illegal building. The centre-left and right parties that governed Sicily over the past 20 years have suddenly "discovered there is illegal housing there," quipped M5S head and deputy prime minister Luigi Di Maio, saying "it makes me laugh".

But Di Maio has himself been accused of pushing for a widely-contested amnesty for illegal housing on the island of Ischia. As the rains continued to fall across central Italy, Naples mayor Luigi de Magistris slammed the government for failing to budget for "the necessary resources to take preventative action" against future tragedies. "This past week Naples and many areas of the country have been alarmingly whipped by an unprecedented storm... as if we had lived through a weather earthquake with a tsunami on top," he said. —Agencies

News in brief

Commonwealth recruits

LONDON: Citizens of Commonwealth countries will be able to join the British armed forces even if they do not live in Britain, the government said yesterday as it struggles to fill vacancies. Britain's junior defense minister Mark Lancaster said in a statement to parliament that the previous five-year residency requirement for Commonwealth army recruits has been removed. "Applications will be accepted from all Commonwealth countries," Lancaster said in his statement, adding that the reform had been introduced "in light of changes to the size of our armed forces". Lancaster said that Commonwealth applicants would have to be aged over 18 - two years more than the minimum for Britons - so as "to mitigate the risks associated with unaccompanied minors traveling to the UK without the guarantee of a job". —AFP

Cameroon police arrest 38

YAOUNDE: Police in Cameroon have arrested 38 supporters of opposition leader Maurice Kamto at a rally protesting the result of last month's presidential election, his party said Monday. Official results of the October 7 ballot declared President Paul Biya, who has ruled the West African country since 1982, the winner with 71 percent of the vote. Kamto was a distant second with 14 percent. But Kamto, candidate for the Movement for the Rebirth of Cameroon (MRC), rejected the result, claiming widespread fraud. One of seven candidates who had sought to unseat the 85-year-old Biya, Kamto has been declared an "outlaw" by the government. A senior MRC official, Emmanuel Simh, said 38 people were arrested on Sunday during protests in the western town of Bafoussam. Authorities and witnesses on Sunday had given a figure of 19 arrests. —AFP

India nuclear submarine

NEW DELHI: India said yesterday its first domestically built nuclear-powered submarine had recently completed a "deterrence patrol", giving it the capability to fire nuclear weapons from land, air and sea in the event of any "misadventure" by enemies. With nuclear-armed China to its north and nuclear-armed Pakistan to its west - both of which India has fought wars with - India's nationalist prime minister, Narendra Modi, said the INS Arihant was a "fitting response to those who indulge in nuclear blackmail". He did not elaborate. "Amid an increase in the number of nuclear weapons in our surroundings, a credible nuclear deterrence is extremely important for our country's security," he told the crew of the submarine in a speech televised nationwide. "Arihant is an open warning for the country's enemies, for the foes of peace: don't try any misadventure against India." —Reuters

Reuters reporters file appeal

YANGON: Lawyers for two Myanmar Reuters journalists filed an appeal yesterday against their seven-year jail sentence linked to their reporting on the Rohingya crisis, the news agency said. Wa Lone, 32, and Kyaw Soe Oo, 28, were found guilty under a state secrets act in September after exposing the extrajudicial killing of 10 Rohingya men during a brutal military crackdown last year. The verdict - following what was widely viewed as a sham trial held to intimidate Myanmar's nascent community of journalists - sparked widespread condemnation. Reuters president and editor-in-chief Stephen J Adler said in a statement the ruling ignored "compelling evidence" that the two reporters had been framed by the authorities. —AFP

US midterms: Key factors of the poll

WASHINGTON: Immigration, health care, jobs. The extraordinary US midterm election has been a tug of war over key issues, but none has had a more dramatic impact on voters than Donald Trump, the man who isn't even on the ballot. The Republican president is the omnipresent figure as Americans render their verdict Tuesday on the past 21 months of Trumpism. Democrats hope voter dissatisfaction with the contentious commander in chief will lead to a blue wave that flips control of the US House out of Republican hands. Trump's minions are counting on enthusiasm about core issues to trigger strong conservative voter turnout that preserves their majorities in Congress. Here are the key factors in the battle for political control in Washington and across the country.

Trump, Trump, Trump

He says it himself: Even though Trump is not on the ballot, he is at the heart of the 2018 vote. The election near the halfway mark of a president's first term is traditionally a referendum on the White House occupant. But the billionaire businessman's explosive and iconoclastic personality has taken the trend to a new level. "A vote for Marsha is really a vote for me and everything that we stand for," he said at an October event for Tennessee's Republican Senate nominee Marsha Blackburn.

World leaders to mark WWI amid warnings about nationalism

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron on Sunday kicks off a week of commemorations for the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, which is set to mix remembrance of the past and warnings about the present surge in nationalism around the globe. Some 70 to 80 world leaders including US President Donald Trump and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin are preparing to fly to the French capital next weekend for a ceremony marking a century since the guns fell silent.

This Sunday, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier joined Macron in the border city of Strasbourg to attend a concert in the city's towering Gothic Cathedral celebrating the friendship between former wartime enemies France and Germany. The 40-year-old French leader will next embark on a week-long tour during which he will criss-cross war-hit areas in northern and eastern France and attend individual ceremonies with the leaders of Germany, Britain and Mali. The centrist president is expected to use the international spotlight to issue a

Trump's scorched earth campaign stops have whipped up conservative fears about a migrant caravan "invasion," waves of crime and a slide towards socialism should Democrats take congressional control. Many Democrats are counting on anti-Trump fervor to drive their base to the polls, but some advocate ignoring the politics of personal destruction and zeroing in on policy debates. Trump is "deploying demagoguery to distract and divide us," and wielding "fear" to shift focus away from issues that Americans truly care about, warned Senate Democrat Patrick Leahy.

Violence

The campaign's final weeks were marred by the worst anti-Semitic attack in modern US history, which left 11 dead in a Pittsburgh synagogue. Days earlier, a frantic manhunt led to the arrest of a fanatical Trump supporter on charges of mailing pipe bombs to prominent Trump opponents, including former president Barack Obama. This spasm of violence fueled a debate about the president's caustic rhetoric, and whether it has played a role in deepening American divisions. Trump condemned the anti-Semitic attack but was more ambiguous about the homemade bomb threat. He quickly hit the road, and in typical Trump fashion attacked his opponents.

Women

Following the outbreak of the #MeToo movement denouncing sexual assault, and the massive women's protests against Trump, women voters

rallying cry against nationalism, having recently warned that the world risked forgetting the lessons of the 20th century's great conflicts.

"I am struck by similarities between the times we live in and those of between the two world wars," he told a French newspaper last week, adding that nationalism was a "leprosy" spreading worldwide. Trump, who has made "America First" his rallying cry, will be among the leaders gathered for the main ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris on November 11, 100 years to the day since the armistice. The commemorations at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on the Champs-Elysees avenue will be held under tight security following a string of deadly jihadist attacks in France over the past three years.

Macron is to visit Western Front battlefields from Verdun to the Somme. Today, in honor of the "black army" of former colonial troops who fought alongside the French, he and Mali's President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita will visit Reims, a city defended by the African soldiers. Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May will join Macron at the Somme on Friday, while on Saturday he heads to the village of Rethondes, where the armistice was signed, with German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Peace forum

War commemorations aside, Macron is set to use his tour of northern France to visit areas hit hard by industrial decline, where far-right leader Marine Le Pen performed



FLORIDA: Supporters of Florida Democrats attend 'Latinas en Marcha' - an election rally with Latin American celebrities in Miami, Florida yesterday. —AFP

and candidates will play critical roles in the first major election since Trump took power. And they appear particularly motivated to vote. Female college graduates in well-off suburbs are in the spotlight because many are voicing disgust with Trump's aggressive rhetoric, and their votes could decide tight races in Democrats' favor. Also a record number of women - 200 Democrats and 60 Republicans - are candidates for Congress, where they currently hold only about 20 percent of the seats.

Immigration

Sending thousands of troops to the

US-Mexico border to counter a migrant "invasion," questioning the validity of birthright citizenship, and spreading stories of scandalous murders by undocumented immigrants: Trump and his Republicans are making immigration a closing argument of the campaign. It may be a logical move. Immigration is a top concern among Republican voters, and driving those issue-focused Trump supporters to the polls is key. Adding to the fear-mongering are Republican-led conspiracy theories about Jewish billionaire philanthropist George Soros helping finance the caravan of Central American migrants. —AFP



MORHANGE: French President Emmanuel Macron (left) lays a wreath during a ceremony in tribute to the French soldiers killed in August 1914 during border battles at the monument in Morhange, eastern France. —AFP

strongly in last year's presidential election. "After paying homage to those who died for their country it will be back to dealing with social and economic problems," said Bruno Cautres of political think-tank CEVIPOF. The former investment banker - who has struggled to shake off an image as a "president of the rich" - will zip through 17 towns, holding Wednesday's weekly cabinet meeting in the Ardennes where the German army had its headquarters for four years.

"Each stop will be an opportunity to

speak about the current concerns in those areas, which are trying to bounce back from de-industrialization or major changes in agriculture," an aide to Macron said last week. The president, whose approval rating is languishing in the low 20s, has dismissed rumours that he is suffering from burnout. He sparked rampant speculation by taking a few days off ahead of the tour, which aides have insisted were to gather his energy before an intense week of diplomacy. —AFP

International

Israel sees desalination as the Sea of Galilee's savior

From pilgrims to geopolitics, lake's evaporation a threat

DEGANIA DAM: Some 2,000 years ago, Jesus walked across the Sea of Galilee, according to the Bible. Today, that doesn't require a miracle. Long periods of drought and over-pumping have brought the lake low. A reedy island has materialized at its southern edge, and will soon be a peninsula. Holiday-makers and fishermen teeter over expanding boggy beaches to reach the waterline.

The depletion imperils Israel's biggest reservoir, starving the River Jordan and Dead Sea. It also diminishes a landmark that rivals Jerusalem as a major draw for Christian pilgrims. Israel sees a solution in desalination, in which it is a world leader. It plans to double the amount of Mediterranean seawater it processes and pipe half of it 75 kilometers to the Galilee. "We are doing this in order to save our nature, to fight global warming, to prevent the effect, the devastating effect, of global warming on the Sea of Galilee, and also to create a very significant water storage for the State of Israel," Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz,

who holds the cabinet water portfolio, told Reuters. Noting the lake's significance to Christians given the



Replenishment with Med water by 2026

Gospel accounts of Jesus' miracle-working there, Steinitz joked: "If he is coming back, we will make sure that he will

have to make a real effort to walk on the water once more." Environmentalists welcome the move. Last full in 2004, the Galilee has dropped six meters (18 feet). It may be just weeks away from hitting a "black line" - 214.87 meters below global sea level - where it risk permanent contamination and pressure change from sediment. Israelis hope winter rains will hold that off until the first desalinated water is piped in, next year.

Pressure

Preserving the lake would free Israel to offer Jordan more water under a 1994 peace treaty. "If there is irreversible damage done to the Sea of Galilee, to the Jordan, to this whole ecosystem, Israel's enemies could use it against her," said David Parsons, vice president of the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem, which oversees evangelical outreach to Israel. "It could also affect Christian tourism to the land. It's very good to see Israel taking responsible

steps now to address this, finally." Israel's plan provides for piping in 120 million cubic meters annually. Steinitz hopes to see that almost tripled in a cabinet vote next month. Such capacity, he said, would replenish the Galilee by 2026. He predicted a small bump to consumers' water tariffs, to help defray the \$622 million infrastructure cost.

Still, with a national election due in 2019 and an unusually wet winter looming, some worry the Galilee could be again neglected. "The vulnerability of this program is that the Water Authority has to continue to commit to maximizing desalination production," said Gidon Bromberg, Israel director for the environmental group EcoPeace/Friends of the Earth Middle East. "And that is a commitment that could change every year." The authority's director, Giora Shaham, sounded reassuring. "We need this water, not only for us but also for the Jordanians, because they are in very, very tough conditions now from the water problem point of view," he said. — Reuters

'Life goes on': Long road for Typhoon Haiyan survivors

TACLOBAN: The Philippines' catastrophic Super Typhoon Haiyan stole almost everything from Juvilyn Luana and Joel Aradana - their spouses, children and homes - but in each other they found love and the strength to start a new family. "No matter how many storms hit us, we are still hopeful because life goes on," Luana told AFP, cradling the couple's one-year-old baby boy. "It's hard to lose hope because there are many things we are looking forward to."

The pair were among the survivors AFP interviewed after the storm, and has now followed up on for the fifth anniversary of the deadliest recorded typhoon to hit the disaster-prone country. For those who survived the storm, the intervening years have been filled with painful steps forward, but also, a determination to not give up despite overwhelming challenges. For Luana, the news that her husband of 13 years and six children were killed in the November 8, 2013 disaster pushed her to the brink of suicide. In 2014, she told AFP that the only reason she did not do it was because she could not find anything tall enough from which to hang herself with a rope scavenged from the rubble.

But then she met Aradana, who lost his wife and two of his five children, at a cash-for-work program for survivors and slowly began to heal. Yet every day remains a struggle. The storm wiped out communities and left a million families homeless in the central Philippines, including worst-hit Tacloban city, already among the nation's poorest.

Aradana is a construction worker earning less than \$10 a day while Luana looks after their children. They live in housing built by a charity group away from their homes in the danger zone, but near a foul-smelling garbage dump where they struggle to get clean drinking water.

'Moderate blessings'

Another survivor, 46-year-old Elsie Indic, was photographed by AFP as part of

a procession thanking God for sparing the lives of the people in their village Opong. The image won the Spot News category in the prestigious World Press Photo Awards, and was named by Time magazine as one of the top images of 2013.

Though she, her husband and four children managed to escape the deadly storm surge, they are confronted daily by the struggle to make a living. Since her husband suffered a stroke in 2016 he has not been able to work, which means she and the children - now in their teens and 20s - need to all pitch in their meagre earnings to survive. Indic puts all of her hope in her children, praying every morning before she gets out of bed that they will finish university and find good jobs. "I don't ask for wealth. I ask for moderate blessings," she said. "I pray that he give them (her children) a better life. That's all I'm asking God."

Hope for the future

Emelie Ortega, 26, has also put her hopes in her offspring. Her oldest child was born days after the storm on a debris-strewn floor of Tacloban's destroyed airport building, in a moment captured by AFP and other media. Baby Bea is about to turn five and now has a one-year-old brother. Yet Ortega said the only way to provide for her children is to leave them with her husband and take a job in Saudi Arabia as a domestic worker, like scores of other poor Filipinas. It leaves her worried over who will defend her daughter from a nasty nickname. "My daughter gets mad when people call her Yolanda," Ortega said, referring to Haiyan's local name. "I tell them not to do that because Yolanda was cruel." — AFP



TACLOBAN: Combo photo shows a file photo taken on November 10, 2013 of typhoon Haiyan survivors queuing up to receive relief goods being distributed at the Tacloban airport in Tacloban on the eastern island of Leyte (top) and a general view of the terminal building at the airport in Tacloban City on November 1, 2018. — AFP

Taleban horse-trade for body of Afghan police chief's killer

HEART: The Taleban is demanding the body of an assassin who shot dead a powerful Afghan police chief, in return for the remains of 13 people killed in an army helicopter crash in territory controlled by the militants. Tribal elders in the restive western province of Farah bordering Iran have been handling negoti-

ations for the exchange of bodies for nearly a week. So far only 12 of the 25 people killed in the helicopter accident in Taleban-controlled Anar Dara district on October 31 have been given to Afghan authorities. Officials blamed bad weather for the crash, but the Taleban claimed its fighters brought down the aircraft.

"We want to hand over the bodies from the helicopter crash to their respective families via the International Committee for the Red Cross, but on condition that the enemy hand over the body of martyred fighter Zabihullah Abu Dajana, who killed Commander Abdul Raziq, to his family," Taleban spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi said in WhatsApp message. Among the bodies returned were those of provincial councilor Jamila Amini, civilians and businessmen, Farah governor spokesman Nasir Mehri said. "No military officials have been recovered yet," Mehri said. — AFP

Jailed Chinese activist's life in danger

BEIJING: China's first "cyber-dissident" Huang Qi is in danger of dying under police custody if he does not receive medical treatment for a host of severe health conditions, human rights groups warned yesterday. Huang, 55, who was arrested in 2016 for "leaking state secrets", is currently being held in Mianyang Detention Centre in southwestern Sichuan province, according to his mother. Huang ran a website called "64 Tianwang", named after the bloody June 4, 1989 crackdown on Tiananmen Square pro-democracy protesters.

The website, which has reported on local corruption cases, police brutality, and other topics rarely seen in ordinary Chinese media, is blocked in mainland China. According to human rights organizations, Huang suffers from chronic kidney disease, hydrocephalus or accumulation of fluid in the brain, and heart disease. "Huang Qi's current condition is extremely urgent," his 85-year-old mother, Pu Wenqing, who travelled to Beijing in October to make a case for her son said.

"I don't want my son to die in prison. I hope the authorities will let him receive medical treatment," she said, adding that he has been denied medical bail despite multiple pleas. Fourteen non-profit organizations, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and Freedom House, released a statement calling for Huang's immediate release. Citing Huang's lawyer, the organizations said that the Chinese dissident is not receiving adequate medical care in detention, and his condition is so dire that there is an "immediate threat to his life". "His health condition is not very good. He has high blood pressure," Liu Zhengqing, Huang's lawyer, told AFP, declining to speak further.

According to Pu, her son has a blood pressure of 221/147 mmHg - well above the normal range of 140/90 mmHg. "The Chinese government must immediately and unconditionally release Huang, who has been detained solely for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression, and end its policy of denying prompt medical treatment to prisoners of conscience, which is a form of torture," the statement said. Mianyang Detention Centre's deputy director declined to comment. Huang's work has repeatedly drawn the ire of Chinese authorities. In 2009, Huang was sentenced to three years in prison after campaigning for parents of children killed in the 2008 Sichuan earthquake, which left nearly 87,000 people dead or missing. — AFP

Kuwait Times

Premier Brands

To see your ad here, call:
+965 248 35 616 / 617
E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net
ads@kuwaittimes.net
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

FACTORY PRICES

SAMSUNG Grand Prime Plus G532F-Gold
8GB 5.0" LTE
الآن 23 ريال
قبل 39 ريال
وفر 16 ريال

SAMSUNG J4 SM-J40032GB-Gold
32GB 5.5" LTE
الآن 35 ريال
قبل 44 ريال
وفر 9 ريال

SAMSUNG Galaxy J7 Prime2 2018 SM-G611
32GB 5.5" LTE
الآن 49 ريال
قبل 82 ريال
وفر 33 ريال

Credit: Start from 5KD • Up to 48 month • Instant approval

Shop Online www.best.com.kw Free Delivery

1809 809

Analysis

Kuwait Times
Established 1961
The First Daily in The Arabian Gulf

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN

Editor-in-Chief
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
FAX : 24835620/1
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163
ACCOUNTS : 24835619
COMMERCIAL : 24835618

P.O. Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.
E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

As election looms, Dems hold their tongues on Trump

Beyond the vegan meatballs and "Medicare For All" T-shirts, there was something else notable at a Democratic rally last week in the Washington suburb of Bethesda, Maryland: direct, no-holds-barred condemnation of the president. "We need somebody who can stand up to Trump!" one candidate for local office told the crowd. Another compared Donald Trump with Russian President Vladimir Putin. But they were just warm-up acts for the main event, the blunt former presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, who while technically an independent is a champion of causes held dear by liberal progressive Democrats.

Trump, Sanders said, was "the most racist, sexist, homophobic, bigoted president in history," adding later for good measure that Trump was a "pathological liar". The crowd thundered in approval. Sanders, a US senator from liberal Vermont, is expected to win re-election easily in today's congressional elections, so he took little political risk in bashing the president. Still, his rhetoric on the stump made for a stark contrast with most Democratic candidates.

Democrats have largely resisted excoriating Trump on his words and actions, although he has denounced the party at his political rallies as an angry, dangerous "mob". As recently as last week, when Trump was accused of sowing division with his response to the synagogue shootings in Pittsburgh and harsh rhetoric on migrants traveling to the US border from Central America, voters heard little about that from Democrats running for Congress.

Democratic candidates were much more likely to be talking about healthcare or economic inequality. That was by design. The party, early in this congressional election season, made a collective determination not to regularly confront the president, according to multiple party sources. That has left many Democrats, particularly those from the party's liberal progressive wing, frustrated. They accuse the party of being too timid, too afraid of alienating moderate voters. They argue that the party needs to find its critical voice during what they see as a national crisis - and that they risk not making a clear case to voters about the values for which the party stands.

"It's a sign of their weakness. It's a sign of their ineffectiveness that they're afraid to do it," said Ed Mattos, 70, of Rockville, Maryland, who attended the Sanders rally. Linda Sarsour, a party activist and an organizer of the nationwide Women's March, which was fueled by anger over Trump's 2016 victory, argued that Democrats must "unapologetically call out the president" while providing their own vision for the country. "We have to have a very clear alternative," she said. "We have to give America two choices here."

Baked in

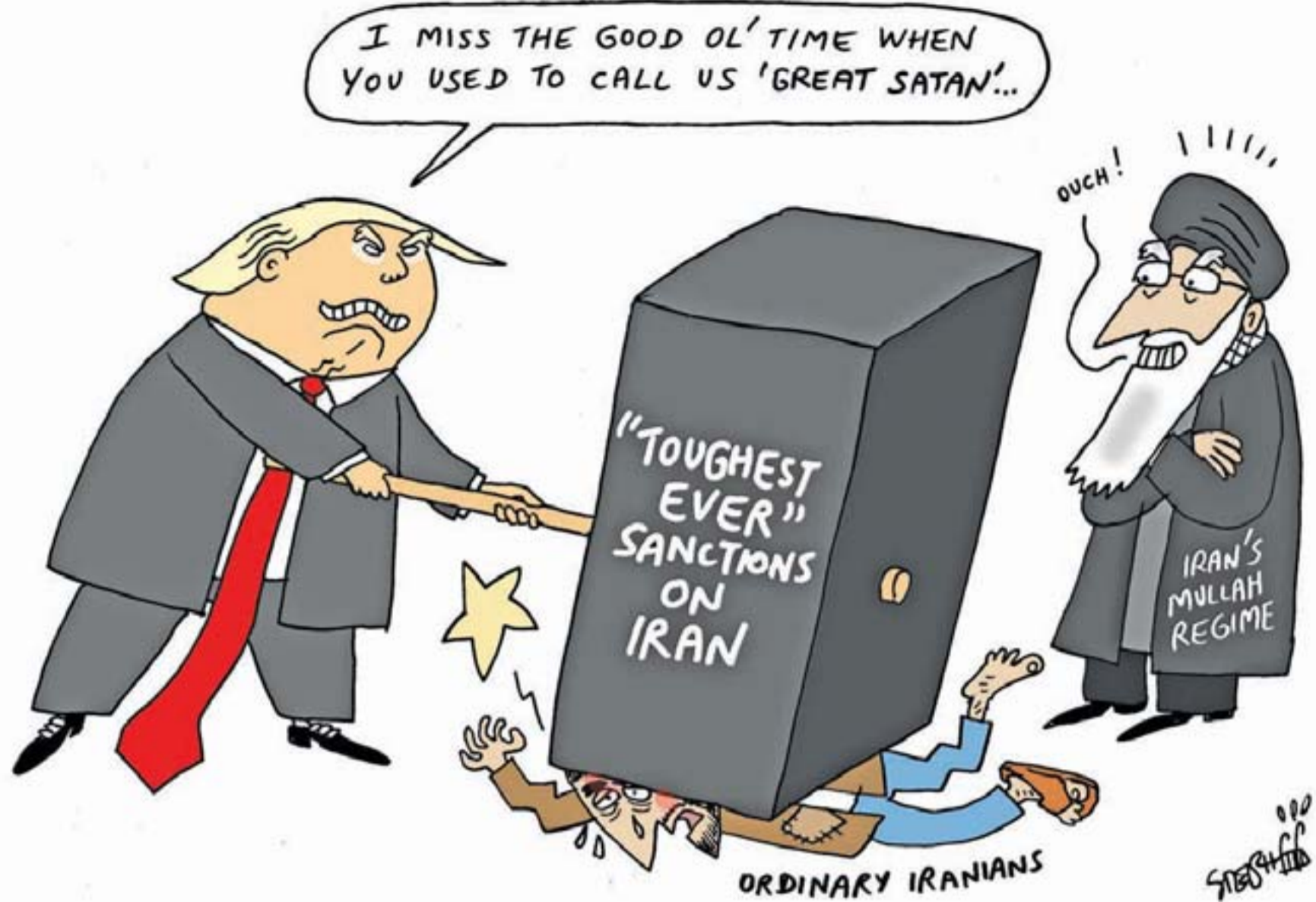
By and large, however, Democratic candidates and party elders such as David Axelrod, the former top campaign aide to President Barack Obama, contend that sticking to "kitchen-table" issues is a better way to win over voters than being drawn into culture wars and the swirl of controversy that Trump regularly generates. Independents and moderates, they say, want candidates who exhibit maturity and stability.

Besides, Trump certainly is never far from voters' minds, they add. "Trump is just so baked into the equation," said one Democratic strategist working on House of Representatives campaigns, who asked to remain anonymous so he could freely discuss the party's thinking. "Candidates have been remarkably disciplined about not being distracted by shiny objects."

Frank Sharry, a longtime advocate for immigrant rights at the advocacy group America's Voice, said candidates "are in a really tough spot. If you engage, you give Trump what he wants, a debate about a topic that he wants to be discussing". Even so, Sharry said he would like to see more Democrats address Trump's "divisiveness and demagoguery". Two who have tried are Beto O'Rourke, a Democrat running for the US Senate in Texas, and Andrew Gillum, the Democratic candidate for Florida governor, both of whom regularly criticize the president's policies and tone.

Nevertheless, electoral projections support the restrained approach. Polls show Democrats on Tuesday should win the 23 seats they need to assume control of the House of Representatives and perhaps as many as 15 or 20 seats beyond that. Democrats are expected to fall short of the two seats they need to reach the majority in the Senate.

The party believes it has heeded a lesson from Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign, which is now viewed by strategists as overly focused on finding fault with Trump rather than affirming Clinton's own agenda. The road map for this year's strategy was drawn last year by Virginia Democratic gubernatorial candidate Ralph Northam, who handily defeated Republican Ed Gillespie by emphasizing economic issues while Gillespie stoked fear among voters over immigration and crime - much like Trump at his latest campaign events. With Trump's every provocative word seemingly splayed across cable news daily, the strategy has often led to a jarring juxtaposition outside of Washington. It has not been unusual for a Democratic campaign event to occur with no reference to the president. — Reuters



Hot economy cold comfort for Republicans

Linda Hults is the sort of Republican who President Donald Trump would expect to reward his party for the hottest US economy in a decade by helping defend its grip on Congress in dozens of tight races across the country. Instead, the retired teacher says she is "at a loss" deciding who she will vote for in this week's election because of Trump's "deplorable" character. "I know many people feel good about earning more. But I can't overlook the whole picture," Hults said at an open-air outlet mall in Flemington, New Jersey, where five-term Republican US Representative Leonard Lance faces a stiff challenge from Democrat Tom Malinowski. "After this, I might just be a plain old independent."

Trump has wagered big that a nearly \$1.8-trillion blast in tax cuts and extra spending would leave his party all but invincible at a time when unemployment is at its lowest since the 1960s and the economy is expanding at a robust 3.5 percent. But Hults' concerns show why Republicans may be vulnerable to losing control of the House of Representatives in Tuesday's midterm elections. Trump gets high marks for his management of the economy, and in two-thirds of the 60 most competitive House districts incomes were higher than the national median in 2017. Yet even in areas where incomes grew the strongest since Trump's inauguration, such as the central New Jersey district where Hults lives, polls show voters mostly split or leaning towards the Democrats. Reuters analysis shows that in 17 of competitive districts median incomes rose by more than 4 percent last year, well above the 2.6 percent nationally. Still, polls analyzed by RealClearPolitics indicate voters favor Republicans in all seven of those districts.

Interviews with nearly 30 voters in two of the districts with strong income gains suggest Democrats and many independents are keen to punish the incumbents, with some citing Trump's divisive scapegoating and others his disregard of institutions and decorum. A strong economy usually helps incumbents and with business optimism high and median household income having risen three years running, traditional pocketbook issues may still save some Republicans in competitive races. "Everyone benefits from

the upswing," said Jack McDade, a Republican voter in Lance's district, who says the candidate would have been wiser to fully embrace Trump's policies.

Polls do favor Republicans retaining control of the Senate. They show, however, that Democrats have a good chance of winning 23 more seats and securing a House majority. Split control of the Congress could stymie further policy stimulus Trump would like to roll out to bolster his

“ Everyone benefits from the upswing ”

re-election bid in 2020. Already, a month-long stock market decline saw Trump shifting blame to the Federal Reserve for tapping too hard on the economy's brakes.

Changing horses

In some too-close-to-call districts where polls show better-educated Americans are less supportive of Trump than elsewhere, Republican candidates are distancing themselves from him to survive. Lance, the congressman whose district is a tangle of wealthy suburbs and wheat fields, voted against Trump's tax bill because it hurt local homeowners. He told Reuters he was "not afraid to disagree with the president". Some Republicans interviewed, meanwhile, expressed resignation about the midterm races, in which the party in power often loses congressional seats. "I think people have given up," Nicole Soares, a dental assistant lunching in Turlock, California, last week, said of her fellow Republicans. Voters in Soares' district of

almond and dairy farms, about 115 km east of San Francisco, elected Republican Jeff Denham three times since its boundaries were redrawn in 2012. Yet even though jobs grew faster here than in all but two of the 60 battleground districts analyzed by Reuters, polls conducted by the New York Times and UC Berkeley's Institute of Governmental Studies show Denham and Democrat Josh Harder in a close race. "I haven't seen Denham do anything so far, so at that point in time, all's you can do is change horses and hope the next one runs better than the last one did," David Ablett, 74, a retired car dealer, said. Ablett, who said he was concerned about healthcare costs and a lack of good jobs, spoke after voting early in downtown Modesto.

Suburban battleground

Through October more than 42 percent of those surveyed in a recent Reuters/Ipsos poll said the economy was on the right track, compared to 38 percent who said the opposite. The positive response is twice what Barack Obama received late in his second term as president. Yet the poll showed voters rate Trump lower for his overall performance than for the state of the economy, which poses a challenge for Republicans running outside of Trump's strongholds. "The difficulty is acute in suburban districts where Trump is very unpopular," said Andy Laperriere, head of US fiscal policy research at Cornerstone Macro, in Washington. "The worry for Republicans is a mismatch of intensity among voters, especially if supporters are holding their nose, while Democrats are out to punish."

While men, and voters that are older, white and wealthier, are the president's biggest backers, according to the Reuters poll, analysts say much will depend on white women with at least a college degree, who are roughly split on the question of the economy. Zita Heinz, who runs a planning company in the tight New Jersey district, said she had backed both parties in the past, but was now leaning Democratic, worried that Republicans might weaken healthcare. "I have to vote to cancel out my husband's vote," she said heading to cast an early ballot in the town of Somerville last week. — Reuters

Palestinians in Yarmouk yearn for outside help

After years of fighting, crippling siege and bombardment, what was once the Palestinian diaspora's largest urban settlement in southern Damascus has been reduced to a sea of debris. Former residents of the Palestinian camp of Yarmouk are desperately counting on assistance from abroad to help raise the once-bustling neighborhood back out of the rubble. "We've lived through a terrifying nightmare," said 46-year-old Amina, one of the camp's very few remaining residents. It "didn't kill us, but now we need someone to rebuild the houses so our people and neighbors can return," she said, wearing a long black robe and white headscarf.

In May this year, Syrian government and allied forces retook the neighborhood, which had for years been the Islamic State jihadist group's only bastion in the capital. Five months on, it is a ghost town where bulldozers have carved wide passages through a sprawling jumble of concrete debris and mangled steel rods. Foreign "countries need to help us because we're like a cripple who needs a crutch to walk again," Amina said.

Founded in 1957 with tents for Palestinians forced to leave their homes by the establishment of Israel, Yarmouk grew into a sprawling neighborhood of permanent structures that became home to 160,000 Palestinians, as well as Syrians. In 2012, around 140,000 residents fled clashes, leaving the rest to face severe food shortages under government siege. And

three years later, IS militants entered the area, bringing further suffering to remaining residents.

Salvaged playground

Despite all this, dozens of families including Amina's remained inside the camp, and others have since trickled back in. A few children snake between the charred carcasses of buses and cars lining a street on their way to a school outside the camp. In Amina's street, one of the only roads in Yarmouk still inhabited, a recently returned neighbor has cobbled together a playground.

Abu Bilal has brought together swings, a small merry-go-round and a slide in an alley adorned with portraits of President Bashar Al-Assad and late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. "I created this space so the neighborhood's children could be happy," said the 54-year-old, who now works sweeping streets recently cleared of rubble. "What I do is not enough for people to come back, but I hope donor countries" will help, he said.

In September, bulldozers started to clear Yarmouk's main roads of rubble, with funding from the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), and are expected to take another two months to finish clearing side streets. "Rebuilding requires (foreign) countries and huge capital," said Palestinian engineer Mahmud Khaled, a member of a committee overseeing the rubble clearing. But Palestinian and UN officials say the camp's future is still unclear, as Damascus has not yet given a green light for any re-building or officially allowed residents to return.

Future of the camp?

The UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, says its 23 premises in the camp including 16 schools are damaged, but it



People walk past destroyed buildings in the Palestinian camp of Yarmouk in southern Damascus on Nov 1, 2018. — AFP

will not fix any if the government does not officially allow residents to return. "What is the future of the camp? Will the government allow people to go back or not?" UNRWA's head in Syria, Mohammed Abdi Adar, said. "Before we can do anything, we must get a clear answer," he told AFP.

Even then finding funding would be tough, said the official, whose agency has been facing a funding crisis since the United States cut vital support. "Many donors are saying they will not support the reconstruction in Syria," Abdi Adar said, though he stressed the aim for UNRWA was simply to re-establish services.

Syria's war has killed more than 360,000 people, displaced millions and ravaged large parts of the country since it started in 2011. Regime ally Moscow has called for assistance in rebuilding Syria so

millions of refugees can return. In July, the government tasked the ministry of works to draw up new plans for Yarmouk, as well as other Damascus suburbs retaken from rebels and militants, sparking fears that the camp could fall under a controversial new law for redevelopment.

Under this law, if their land is part of a new development, owners inevitably lose their property but can apply for compensation if they can prove ownership. Individual Palestinians and Syrians own property in 80 percent of the Yarmouk camp, while the remainder is owned by the Syrian state and managed by its authority for Palestinian affairs. For now, Palestinian officials say the government has assured them that Yarmouk is under no threat. They are pushing for a 2004 plan to be followed for reconstruction. — AFP

Business

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2018

12 Bahrain outlook improves on GCC support, fiscal reforms**13** ABK-Egypt reaches EGP 1bn mark for net operating profit in Q3 2018**14** Global Finance names Boubyan Bank as Best Islamic Digital Bank globally

COLOMBO: Foreign tourists pose for photographers at Sri Lanka's Independence Memorial Hall, which was built to commemorate the country's independence from British rule in Colombo yesterday.—AFP

Sri Lanka crisis scares away tourists

Impasse rings alarm bells for economy as currency slumps to record lows

COLOMBO: A political crisis in Sri Lanka, where two prime ministers are fighting for power, is scaring away tourists and raising questions over foreign aid, ringing alarm bells for the economy as the currency slumps to record lows. The turmoil in the Indian Ocean nation that has seen one premier refuse to be sacked, and another battle to prove a majority in a parliament that is banned from meeting, has caused major upheaval that Sri Lanka cannot afford.

Amidst warnings from politicians of a "bloodbath" if the dispute escalates, tourists are cancelling hotel bookings just as Sri Lankan beaches and major sites like the Temple of the Tooth prepare for peak season. While no official figures have been given, deluxe hotels have reported cancellations and a critical decline in new bookings in the past 10 days. "This comes at the worst possible time when people in Europe are making their holiday plans abroad," a Colombo city hotel executive told AFP. "We have had a lot of cancellations from the United States." "With the political crisis our winter season is gone," the director of a luxury beach resort in the south of the island said.

Tourist dollars needed

Western nations have warned their citizens to be on

their guard in Sri Lanka. "You should exercise vigilance and avoid all demonstrations or large political gatherings," a British government advisory said. Tourism is a cornerstone of the economy. More than 2.4 million foreign holidaymakers visited last year, spending \$3.2 billion. Authorities had been counting on a rise of more than 10 percent this year.

And whether Ranil Wickremesinghe stays in office or former president Mahinda Rajapakse takes his place, foreign earnings will be badly needed. The Asian Development Bank had predicted the economy would grow by 3.8 percent this year and 4.5 percent in 2019, but all bets are now off.

The power vacuum has raised doubts over a \$1.5 billion Japanese-funded light rail project and another \$480 million of US finance for transport and health, a Wickremesinghe minister, Patali Ranawaka, said last week. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) was about to announce an agreement on releasing a new tranche of a \$1.5 billion loan when President Maithripala Sirisena sacked Wickremesinghe on October 26. "We are monitoring the situation closely and we remain in contact with our counterparts at the technical level," an IMF spokesman said of the deepening power struggle.

Wickremesinghe, a market liberal, has insisted he is still

in charge while strongman former leader Rajapakse—already blamed for piling up the island's debt when he was president from 2005 to 2015 — launched his rival administration last week with measures that caused new jitters. Rajapakse, finance minister as well as head of government, reduced the price of fuel and other essential goods and cut taxes in a move to win over the public. Treasury officials, who asked not to be named, said the revenue loss from the cuts could blow a new hole in the country's balance sheet.

Official figures show that Sri Lanka will have to start repaying a record \$4.2 billion of debt in 2019, up from \$2.8 billion this year. The crisis broke just days after Finance Minister Mangala Samaraweera called for a "coalition of the willing" to stabilize the free-falling Sri Lankan rupee along with other emerging market currencies. The rupee hit a record-low 177.32 to the dollar last week, despite official measures to arrest its decline. The currency has shed more than 14 percent this year and Sri Lanka fears it could slide further as US sanctions squeeze Iran, the island's chief source of oil.

Samaraweera, whose position is now disputed by Rajapakse, said the flight of foreign capital accelerated in the first four days after the political crisis. He cited Colombo stock exchange figures showing foreign

investors took out nearly \$23 million from the market, compared to \$35 million over the first nine months of this year. Rajapakse has said he will cut down on non-essential imports and reduce personal and corporate taxes to encourage local industrialists and companies. Fitch said however that a protracted political crisis could undermine foreign investor confidence and "make it more challenging" for Colombo to pay its debts.

Meanwhile, deposed Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said the United States and Japan had frozen more than a billion dollars of development aid after his abrupt dismissal raised doubts about the future of democracy in the island. The move to hold back project financing, along with the EU's warning it could withdraw duty-free concessions for Sri Lankan exports if it didn't stick to commitments on national reconciliation, will further strain the economy. Wickremesinghe told Reuters in an interview. President Maithripala Sirisena fired him last month after months of tensions within the government and appointed Mahinda Rajapaksa as premier in a shock move that has plunged the nation into a political crisis. Rajapaksa is a former president who led the country to a military defeat of Tamil separatist guerrillas in 2009 but who has since faced widespread allegations of human rights abuse and targeting of Tamil civilians. — Agencies

Iranians feeling US sanctions 'in their bones'

TEHRAN: The latest round of US sanctions on Iran's vital oil industry may have just started yesterday but some Iranians say they have already become a basic fact of life. "I don't need the news to tell me that sanctions have started, I am feeling them in my bones," said Farzad, a 65-year-old pensioner.

"Anyone who goes to the market to acquire their basic needs will feel the sanctions straight away," he told AFP as he headed to the Tajrish bazaar in northern Tehran for his weekly shop.

The last tranche of sanctions hit Iran yesterday, targeting its oil and financial sectors, following President Donald Trump's decision in May to pull out of the 2015 nuclear deal.

Hit by months of economic turmoil since that decision, in part due to US pressure but also to long-standing problems in the domestic economy and banking sector, many Iranians were left nonplussed when the final sanctions hit. "There have been sanctions forever, almost 40 years now, there is nothing new about that," said Sogand, a retired college lecturer. "America has power, so it bullies everyone. Not just us—they even bully the Europeans," she added.

All over Iran, the mood is a mix of gloom and anxiety, defiance and anger. "What we do is none of America's business," said Mehdi Mirzaee.

Lost cause

His defiance came in spite of considerable personal hardship after his textiles workshop was forced to close over the rising price of wool. "America has been hitting at us for the last 100 years, but we will never become their servants," he said.

Others said they felt naive for having dared to hope their country's international isolation

would end with the nuclear deal signed with six world powers, including the US, in 2015. "When the nuclear deal was signed, we Iranians were very happy. We thought everything would change for the better," said Fereshteh Safarnejad, a 43-year-old teacher.

"But unfortunately we were treated dishonorably by both the American and Iranian governments. The Americans never really committed to the deal and the Iranian government did not spend the cash it got from the deal on the people," she said. Iranians were not holding their breath for a quick solution to the country's economic woes. "The problem is Iran's economy was sick anyway. Even if sanctions were lifted immediately, it would take years to cure it," Safarnejad said.

For others it is a lost cause. "You can't keep on trying to fix things with trial and error," Farzad said.

"The government has been trying for the last 40 years and they have failed. They are just not up to the job. They should resign and allow someone who can do it to take up the job." — AFP



TEHRAN: A man checks rates in front of a currency exchange shop in the Iranian capital Tehran's grand bazaar.—AFP

Business

ABK-Egypt reaches EGP 1bn mark for net operating profit in Q3 2018

Total assets stand at EGP 28 billion, a growth of 34%

KUWAIT: ABK-Egypt yesterday announced the bank's financial performance for the first nine months of 2018. The Bank recorded EGP 1 billion in net operating profit, leading to a 75 percent increase in net profit after tax versus same period in 2017 to reach 419 million. Total assets stood at EGP 28 billion, recording a growth of 34 percent from December 31, 2017, and customer deposits increased to EGP 24 billion, reflecting a 38 percent increase over a 9-month period. The total portfolio of customer loans and facilities increased by 35 percent, to reach EGP 15 billion.

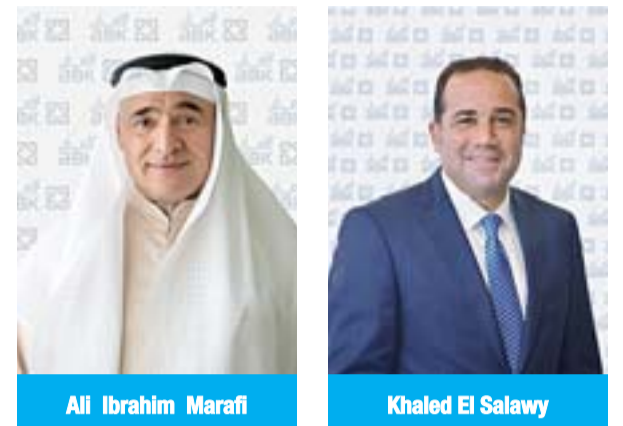
Ali Ibrahim Marafi, Chairman of ABK-Egypt said: "ABK-Egypt has witnessed continued growth across all financial indicators. We are pleased with the consistent ability of all parts of our business to generate

good returns within the Bank's risk appetite. This year we have increased our branch network to a total of 40 branches across Egypt, with more branches opening in the near future, in line with the plan originally set out to reposition and open branches in strategic locations. Egypt remains a key market for ABK- Group, and these results reinforce our confidence in our capability to deliver attractive returns to shareholders over time."

Khaled El Salawy, CEO and Managing Director of ABK-Egypt, commented: "We are pleased with our performance during the first nine months of this year. Our results reflect the Bank's successful strategy to focus on solutions and activities that achieve sustainable growth. We are inherently dedicated to delivering an advanced customer experience by consistently

developing and upgrading our product offering, and catering effectively to the needs of existing and potential customers."

In line with the Bank's growth strategy, ABK-Egypt successfully expanded its technological infrastructure and geographical presence, and today has a total of 40 branches in key districts across Egypt. The Bank serves a diverse range of corporate customers - including small, medium and large-size companies - through its corporate banking and SME solutions. Additionally, the Bank offers simplified retail services to individuals, supported by up-to-date customer service practices, such as online and mobile banking services, and a recently upgraded advanced ATM network.



Ali Ibrahim Marafi

Khaled El Salawy

Rich Asians spark family office boom in HK, Singapore

HONG KONG: Rich Chinese and other Asians are increasingly seeking more control of their wealth, driving a rapid rise in the number of so-called family offices, or private investment vehicles, being set up in Hong Kong and Singapore. As the wealthy target greater investment diversification and as business owners hand over the reins to successors, family offices are sprouting in the Asian financial hubs, taking advantage of incentives such as tax breaks and residency being offered.

The family office is a relatively new concept in Asia, with less than 500 such entities, compared to thousands in the West. There is no precise number available, given the private ownership structure and secrecy around these businesses.

They offer a one-stop solution to managing the wealth of the rich, including investments, charitable giving, taxation and wealth transfer. Staffed by bankers, fund managers, lawyers and tax practitioners, some even provide overseas private schooling and travel arrangements as add-on services.

The rich are favoring family offices as they get personalized attention and are able to have a bigger say in their wealth management.

"This year the activity for setting up family offices is definitely more," said Lee Wong, Swiss private bank Lombard Odier Asia's head of family services. "The growth of family offices in Asia should continue on its current trajectory."

Asia Pacific had 814 billionaires at end-2017, accounting for 38 percent of the global billionaire population, with China minting two new billionaires every week, a report by UBS and PwC said last month. That momentum was aided by the boom in Hong Kong for initial public offerings which saw a record \$27.7 billion raised in the first nine months of 2017 mostly by Chinese tech firms, turning many founders into millionaires and billionaires. Six private bankers on average estimated the number of new family offices in Asia had risen 15 percent in the first three quarters of this year over the year-ago period. This could pick up pace with a worldwide wealth transition of \$3.4 trillion expected over the next two decades, as per the UBS/PwC report.

Bulking up

Asian family offices are evolving from being just investment focused to offering a platform for dispute resolution and succession planning, as the new generation in the family-owned businesses expand into newer areas, bankers said.

Buoyed by the growth prospects, private bank units



SINGAPORE: A man jogs past the skyline of Singapore. Asia Pacific had 814 billionaires at end-2017, accounting for 38 percent of the global billionaire population, with China minting two new billionaires every week. —Reuters

of global firms including Citigroup, Credit Suisse, HSBC, and UBS are looking to expand family office services, headhunters and bankers said.

Stephen Campbell, chairman of the global family office group at Citi Private Bank, which serves over 1,500 family offices globally, said the bank had seen "dramatic growth" in the number of its clients, including in Asia. Citi plans to make a new Hong Kong-based hire in its Asia Pacific family offices team, he said.

Credit Suisse's Asia Pacific head of wealth planning Bernard Fung said due to the surging demand from North Asia for family offices the bank would set up a team for this service in Hong Kong by the first quarter of 2019, adding to its Singapore hub. "Offshore Chinese wealth will continue to grow, so family offices business is going to be a multi-year trend," said Ivan Wong, co-head for North Asia at HSBC Private Banking. HSBC Asia private bank will add 700 people by 2022, and some of those new hires will focus on family office clients, he said.

UBS declined to comment.

Some of the regional financial firms are also looking to grab a bigger share of the business.

Bank of Singapore plans to hire six more bankers for a team set up in May to provide support to independent asset managers, including family offices in Hong

Kong, said Derrick Tan, its global market head of Greater China and North Asia.

Incentives

The increased activity is also being helped by tax exemptions and other incentives offered by Hong Kong and Singapore. The number of family offices in Singapore quadrupled between 2015 and 2017, the Monetary Authority of Singapore said in response to a Reuters query, adding those funds can avail of "fund tax exemption schemes" if they satisfy the conditions.

The city-state was depicted as a playground for the super-rich in the Hollywood hit film "Crazy Rich Asians". Singapore Economic Development Board's assistant managing director Kelvin Wong said European families were also keen to access growth opportunities in Asia by establishing satellite family offices in the region. Hong Kong plans to introduce a new structure that will offer "more flexibility and choices" in setting up funds, including those managed by family offices, said a spokesman for the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau.

"The regulators have been very welcoming to family offices setting up here because that creates spin-offs for the economy as well," said Dawn Quek, a tax principal at Baker McKenzie Wong & Leow in Singapore. —Reuters

Turkish inflation surges to new 15-year high of over 25%

ISTANBUL: Inflation in Turkey surged to over 25 percent in October from the same period the year earlier, the highest annual rate for over 15 years, official statistics showed yesterday.

Prices have soared in Turkey over the last months as the lira came under pressure, stoking fears over the long-term economic health of the country. The 25.24 percent inflation rate for October marked a new increase on the 24.52 percent recorded in September. It was the highest annual rate since July 2003, when the country was still emerging from its 2000-2001 financial crisis.

The worst affected sectors included furnishing and household goods with 37.92 percent, according to the Turkish statistics office (TUİK). From September, prices rose 2.67 percent. The lira fell dramatically over the summer against a backdrop of market mistrust toward President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's economic policies as well as tensions between Ankara and Washington.

The currency has enjoyed a moderate recovery over the last weeks after the central bank on September 13 increased its main policy rate—the one week repo auction rate—from 17.75 percent to 24 percent. But at its latest meeting on October 25, the central bank kept the headline rate unchanged.

Inflation is now higher than interest rates, pushing what economists call the real policy rate into negative territory.

Jason Tuvey, emerging markets economist at London-based Capital Economics, said October inflation rise was "stronger-than-expected" but unlikely to prompt further rate hikes. "The central bank is unlikely to follow up September's aggressive interest rate hike with additional tightening," Tuvey said.

Inan Demir, economist at Nomura, said that after its dramatic September move the central bank was in no mood to tighten but the reading should lessen chances it would actually cut rates.

"We do not have high hopes that this inflation print will lead to a change in monetary policy stance in the December rate setting meeting," he said. "But at least it should encourage the market to price out some of the premature rate cut expectations," he added.

Economists have been concerned over domestic monetary policy in Turkey after Erdogan repeatedly slammed high interest rates, going against economic orthodoxy to claim they cause high inflation and are the "mother and father of all evil." —AFP

UK services growth slows to 7-month low as firms fear for outlook

LONDON: Business activity in Britain's dominant services sector slowed to a seven-month low last month and firms' expectations for the coming year are the gloomiest since just after the 2016 Brexit vote, a major survey showed yesterday.

The IHS Markit/CIPS purchasing managers' index (PMI) dropped to 52.2 in October from 53.9 in September, its lowest since a patch of unusually icy weather in March and a bigger fall than economists had forecast in a Reuters poll. Britain's economy has slowed since the June 2016 referendum, and Monday's data added to signs that a patch of solid consumer-led growth over the summer months is now fading as firms focus on risks from Brexit and warning signs about the global economy.

"With autumn upon us, consumers are tightening their belts. And with the prospect of any greater certainty seemingly as distant as ever, businesses ... are struggling to maintain their confident outlook," said Chris Sood-Nicholls, a managing director at Lloyds Bank's commercial lending unit.

Businesses' expectations for stronger activity over the next 12 months were the weakest since July 2016, when they briefly hit a post-financial crisis low following the vote to leave the European Union. Sterling briefly dipped to a day's low against the US dollar after the data, but market reaction was muted overall. Prime Minister Theresa May has yet to agree a withdrawal deal with the EU to ensure goods, services and workers will continue to be able to cross borders easily after Britain leaves the bloc on March 29 next year.

Global economy worries

Businesses also reported headwinds from a slowing global economy, trade tensions, and financial market turbulence. "It therefore remains unclear as to the extent to which Brexit



LAAYOUNE, Morocco: People walk at a market in the Moroccan-controlled Western Sahara's main city of Laayoune. —AFP

worries are exacerbating or obfuscating a more broad-based slowing of the economy," IHS Markit economist Chris Williamson said.

Last week the Bank of England forecast Britain's rate of economic growth would halve to 0.3 percent in the final three months of 2018 from an estimated 0.6 percent in the third quarter of the year, when good weather lifted consumer spending.

But Governor Mark Carney said the central bank would look beyond what it expects to be short-term growth volatility, and might need to raise interest rates faster than markets expect if Brexit ends up going relatively smoothly. The weak services data follows the softest manufacturing PMI since the Brexit vote. The two PMIs, combined with more robust

construction data, are jointly the weakest since March and point to quarterly growth of 0.2 percent if things do not improve, IHS Markit said.

Businesses said new orders were coming in at the slowest rate since July 2016, and their costs were rising at the fastest rate since June due to higher fuel bills and rising wages.

However, they expected orders to pick up if the Brexit talks were concluded successfully. The services PMI in Britain does not include the public sector or retailers, who enjoyed strong consumer spending over the summer but face longer-term challenges from online sales.

Consumer-facing firms such as hotels, restaurants and leisure companies reported the weakest PMI performance. —Reuters

Indonesia growth slows as rupiah selloff, spending slump bites

JAKARTA: Indonesia's growth slowed slightly in the third quarter, government data showed yesterday, as Southeast Asia's largest economy grapples with an emerging currency selloff and a downturn in consumer spending. The commodities-driven economy expanded 5.17 percent between July and September, slower than in the second quarter, when Ramadan gave some "momentum for consumption" in the world's biggest Muslim majority country, the head of the statistics bureau told a press conference.

Household spending—which accounts for more than half of Indonesian GDP—was also slower compared to the previous quarter, although slightly higher than in the same three months in 2017. "Overall, we think economic growth in Indonesia will remain stuck at around 5 percent over the next couple of years," Alex Holmes, an economist at consultancy Capital Economics, said in a report. President Joko Widodo—who faces national elections in April—came to power in 2014 on a pledge to boost annual growth to seven percent but his government has struggled to rev up the economy.

Holmes saw "little prospect of a sustained upturn" and expected the export sector to be a key drag on growth over the next year. Indonesia has been grappling with a slumping rupiah from an emerging market selloff with the unit at levels last seen during the late-nineties Asian financial crisis. —AFP

Business

Global Finance names Boubyan Bank as Best Islamic Digital Bank globally

For the fourth year in a row

KUWAIT: Boubyan Bank added a new achievement to its global awards by receiving the Best Islamic Digital Bank Award, globally, for the fourth year in a row by Global Finance.

Abdulla Al-Tuwaijri, Boubyan's Deputy CEO, stated: "This award crowns our efforts over a remarkable year in digital banking, and is an addition as well to the awards previously received by the bank in this domain such as the Best Islamic Digital Bank in Kuwait and the Best Islamic Digital Bank in the Middle East, all of which were awarded by Global Finance."

"The most significant aspect about this achievement is that it places Boubyan Bank, being an Arab Islamic bank, among major banks and this is a new achievement added to Kuwaiti banks as well as the banking and financial sector in Kuwait," he added.

He went on to add: "Four years ago, we received the same award and ever since, the challenge was to maintain it year after year because it is more difficult to stay on the top than to get there." Al-Tuwaijri continued: "The most significant aspect of this award is that it comes from an international institution which is renowned for its fairness and credibility, and this crowns our efforts over the past years where the bank invested in IT and digital banking services."

He went on to add that Boubyan Bank was one of the few banks in the region which satisfied the conditions for the award, and that Boubyan Bank's experience over the past years met all the criteria set by Global Finance.

Why is Boubyan Bank among the best globally?

In its report about the selection criteria set by a panel of international judges, Global Finance referred to such criteria as:

- Strength of strategy set by the bank for attracting and servicing digital customers.
- Success in getting clients to use digital offerings
- Growth of digital customers who use digital banking services through their various channels, especially smart phones.

URC achieves 4.55% growth in operating revenues in nine months of 2018

KUWAIT: United Real Estate Company K.S.C.P (URC), one of the leading real estate developers in the MENA region, announced its performance for the nine months of 2018. Achieving a growth in total operating revenue of 4.55 percent to reach KD 67.4 million, as compared to KD 64.5 million for the same period of last year. During the third quarter of 2018, URC achieved revenues of KD 23.7 million as compared to KD 24.5 million for the same period in 2017 at a recorded decline of 3.34 percent. The total assets of the nine months ended on 30/9/2018 amounted to KD 622 million with an increase of 6.47 percent over the comparative previous year.

URC recorded a net loss for the nine months of 2018 of KD 3.3 million as compared to a profit of KD 285,000 for the same period in 2017, and a decline in earnings per share of 3.07 fils for the first nine months of 2018 as compared to a profit increase of 0.26 fils per share for the same period in 2017.

The company attributed the loss in 2018 to increased provisions against receivables, increased financing costs as a result of increased funding for the company's projects and activities, offset by an increase in the profits of associates. Commenting on these results, Ahmad Kasem, Acting Chief Executive Officer of URC, stated: "In spite of URC's encountered challenges during the nine months of this year, the company continues to grow its operating revenues in line with its strategy for each project to ensure business growth and sustainability in the long-term."



Ahmad H Kasem

MicroFocus leads Britain's FTSE higher in choppy trade

LONDON: UK shares were flat to slightly higher in choppy trade yesterday after hitting their highest in nearly two weeks as leading software group MicroFocus surprised with robust revenue outlook and Evraz was boosted by gains in steel prices in China. The FTSE 100 was up 0.1 pct at 1039 GMT, extending last week's gains as the market continued its cautious recovery from October's brutal sell-off, shrugging off weaker performance by Asian markets overnight.

Defensives from Diageo to AstraZeneca contributed the biggest gains, with financials on the backfoot.

The market hit its session high after the pound was briefly knocked by data showing business activity in Britain's dominant services sector slowed to a seven-month low last month. The weak services PMI reading highlights a likely slowdown for fourth-quarter GDP, which is expected to come in around 0.2 percent, said Josh Mahony, market analyst at IG. —Reuters

• Innovation and creativity in providing outstanding banking and non-banking services via electronic channels.

Digital Customer Base

Furthermore, Sameer Al-Shayji, Deputy General Manager at Boubyan Bank, who received the award in a ceremony held for this occasion in London stated: "The past four years witnessed an unprecedented increase in the number of Boubyan Bank customers who use our digital banking solutions whether online or through the services provided by Boubyan Bank App."

"This has been linked with the huge growth in the number of our customers and, accordingly, the number of banking transactions completed through all our channels has multiplied over the past years compared with the moderate growth rates for other banks. This is considered another challenge coupled with the other challenges faced by the bank," he added.

He went on to add that the executive management was well aware of such challenges and that was the reason why they decided to invest heavily in the various banking channels in order to keep up with the developments witnessed by both the services and products.

Al-Shayji also stated that Boubyan's leadership in the banking industry over the past years was achieved through offering many banking services and products for the first time in Kuwait where the phrase "for the first time in Kuwait" became a synonym of the digital achievements made by Boubyan Bank.

He further added that this year witnessed the introduction of many services and products which were first introduced to the Kuwaiti market by Boubyan Bank,



Abdulla Al-Tuwaijri



Al-Shayji receiving the award

and that kept Boubyan in its leadership position in an attempt to distinguish its clients and provide them with a unique banking experience. "One of these services is 'Msa3ed' which allows clients to perform transactions around the clock on their accounts in addition to the Digital Murabaha Service which helps complete finance application procedures through smart phones and online banking," Al-Shayji added.

He also stated: "For the first time in Kuwait, Boubyan

Bank clients can now apply for a credit card at any time through online banking by using their PACI-verified digital signature."

Al-Shayji also spoke of the cooperation with the government sector where the bank signed a Mutual Cooperation Protocol with Kuwait Credit Bank to activate and offer a group of digital services which would facilitate banking transactions for the clients of Kuwait Credit Bank.

Gulf Bank announces winners of Al-Danah draw

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah weekly draw on the 4th of November 2018 announcing the names of its winners for the week from the 28th October till the 1st of November 2018, in which five winners will receive KD 1,000 each, every week.

The winners this week are:

- Maha Salem Motlaq Abu Hadeedah

European markets steady on eve of US midterm vote

LONDON: European stocks held steady yesterday as cautious investors eyed the upcoming US midterm election, the resumption of Washington's sanctions on Iran, and brewing fiscal fears in Italy. After a flat opening, Frankfurt and London each added 0.2 percent in late morning deals and Paris rose 0.1 percent, but Milan shed 0.4 percent on ongoing fiscal worries.

Global oil prices are meanwhile trading at multi-month lows after the US reimposed sanctions on Iran, which is the OPEC cartel's second-biggest player after Saudi Arabia. "European bourses opened flat yesterday as traders keep their focus on US midterms today, whilst questions over the Italian budget continue to impact risk sentiment," said Markets.com analyst Neil Wilson.

"Iran sanctions have come into force but it looks like oil prices have already factored in the impact on the market. Estimates about how much oil will be lost as a result of the measures have varied widely."

'Worst case scenario' for markets

Traders are now eyeing today's US mid-term elections, which are seen as a vote on President Donald Trump's performance since taking the White House, with the Democrats looking to take control of the House of Representatives. A win for them could also raise the chances of Trump being impeached, according to some analysts. "The results of Tuesday's US midterm elections will decide which party controls the House and Senate," noted FXTM analyst Hussein Sayed. He added that the "market's worst-case scenario would be the Democrats controlling both houses as future fiscal policy trajectory becomes uncertain — and the probability of Trump's impeachment intensifies."

Oil prices meanwhile slipped as Washington reimposed sanctions on Tehran but with a number of coun-

Eurozone ministers face defiant Italy on budget

BRUSSELS: Exasperated eurozone finance ministers are expected to back Brussels in the row over Italy's budget yesterday, setting the stage for market turmoil not seen since the debt crisis.

Eurozone finance ministers are meeting for the first

- Abdullah Ahmed Al-Raqem
- Sarah Hussain Kathem Al-Dhahi
- Khaled Haidar Jawhar
- Sara Fakher Al-Nasser

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah first quarterly draw for KD 200,000 prize was held on 28 March, and the 2nd Al-Danah quarterly draw, for the prize of KD 250,000 was held on 27th June and the 3rd quarterly draw for the prize of KD 500,000 was held on 26th September. The final Al-Danah draw for KD 1 million will be held on the 10th January 2019, where the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced.

Gulf Bank encourages customers to increase their chances of winning with Al-Danah by depositing more into their Gulf Bank accounts using the new ePay (Self-Pay) service, which is available on Gulf Bank's online and mobile banking services.

Al-Danah offers a number of unique services to customers, including the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM

card, which allows account holders to deposit money into their accounts at their convenience. Account holders can also calculate their daily, weekly and yearly chances of winning the draws through the 'Al-Danah Chances' calculator available on the Gulf Bank website and app.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers require a minimum of KD 200 to open an account and the same amount should be maintained for customers to be eligible for the upcoming Al-Danah draws. If the customer's account balance falls below KD 200 at any given time, a KD 2 fee will be charged to their account monthly until the minimum balance is met. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the daily draw within two days. To take part in the Al-Danah 2018 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must meet the required hold period for each draw.



HONG KONG: Pedestrians walk past a stocks display board that shows an increase in the Hang Seng Index in Hong Kong yesterday. —AFP

tries including India, Japan and possibly China being given waivers to continue buying from the country. Adding to the downward pressure are expectations that major producers Saudi Arabia and Russia will ramp up their own exports to make up for the shortfall from Iran. In early yesterday morning deals, New York crude sank to a seven-month low at \$62.52 per barrel. Before the weekend, Brent oil had touched a 2.5-month trough at \$72.16 on Friday.

Asian stocks stumble

Asian bourses meanwhile fell yesterday after Trump's top economic adviser downplayed the

time since the European Commission rejected Rome's 2019 budget in a historic move.

Italy's populist government does not seem to want to play by EU rules on running a national budget and ratings agencies could send shockwaves through teetering Italian banks by downgrading the country's credit score.

"Everyone is worried," a senior European Union official said, as several sources told AFP most of the 19 ministers would back the Commission's tough stance. Members of the single currency bloc have flouted collective budget guidelines before but none so "openly and consciously"—in the Commission's terms—as the unrepentant populist coalition south of the Alps.

chances of a quick deal to end the China-US trade war, taking the wind out of the sails of last week's rally.

The US leader had fuelled a surge in the region's equities Friday by tweeting that he had held positive talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping, before a report said he had even asked officials to draw up a draft bill with an eye on a potential agreement. But White House adviser Larry Kudlow later tempered expectations, telling CNBC "there's no massive movement to deal with trade". The news had sent Wall Street into the red on Friday as investors shrugged off impressive US jobs data. —Reuters

The unprecedented provocation may draw an unprecedented response. If Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte's government does not fall into line, it could face huge fines.

"It would be inevitable," a senior European official told AFP.

Italy, and in particular its far-right vice premier Matteo Salvini, is not planning to back down, and seems even to relish the opportunity to thumb its nose at Brussels.

The government—a coalition of Salvini's League and the anti-establishment Five Star Movement—plans to run a public deficit of 2.4 percent of GDP, three times the target of its center-left predecessor. —AFP

What's On

Malabar Group opens eco-friendly Global HQ at Montana Estate, Kerala

Malabar Group, one of the world class brands from India with presence in 10 countries, yesterday added another laurel to its roster of glory by formally inaugurating the new Global Headquarters, which is completely nature-friendly but ultra-modern with advanced facilities.

The picturesque headquarters of the diversified Malabar Group, at Kuttikattoor, Kozhikode, India will house all its subsidiaries including the flagship brand, Malabar Gold & Diamonds. It has been built at Montana Estates, the 150-acre serene township, situated at 800 feet above the sea-level, away from the bustle of the City.

The world class office complex, matching the global standards and facilities of top corporate houses, has been conceived to give the perfect nature-friendly and hi-tech working ambiance to the employees. The HQ, a different work place to motivate the employees, will have research centres and training centres, among many facilities.

E P Jayarajan, Kerala Minister for Industries and Sports, formally inaugurated headquarters in the presence of a host of dignitaries. T P Ramakrishnan, Kerala

Minister for Labour & Excise, released the corporate video of the Malabar Group. A K Saseendran, Kerala Minister for Transport, announced 'Golden Girl', an initiative to promote girl talent. Inaugurating the headquarters, E P Jayarajan said unity, humanitarian focus and mutual trust were the key to the success of the Malabar Group. "This is one success that Keralites should be proud of", he said, adding that the Government wanted higher investment both in the private and the public sectors.

Chairing the session, Malabar Group Chairman Mr M P Ahammed attributed his success from one store to 250 store world leader in 25 years to the wholehearted support from the investors and the customers. "This is the result of collective effort, from investors to the consumers to the employees. A brand is built only with the support and trust of the consumer," he said. Malabar Group took an Indian brand, having proven its quality, to different parts of the world while multinational brands were entering the country.

P K Kunhalikutty, MP, along with Khamis Al Mandhri, Minister Plenipotentiary - Chief of Administrative Department, Oman



Government, launched M-Connect app for the employees. District Collector U V Jose launched the Banking App. Launch of 25th anniversary social media profile frame was done by Shamlal Ahamed, Managing Director, International Operations of Malabar Gold & Diamonds and Mr. K P Abdul Salam, Group Executive Director, Malabar Group.

Malabar Chamber of Commerce honored Malabar Group Chairman MP Ahammed, BJP

State chief P S Sreedharan Pillai, Malabar Group Co-Chairman Dr P A Ibrahim Haji, PTA Rahim, MLA, Mr. Purushan Kadalundi, MLA, Peruvayal Panchayat President Y V Santha, Kunnamangalam Panchayat President Shyja Valapil, Income Tax Assistant Commissioner V M Jayadeven, Mathrubhumi Managing Editor P V Chandran, K C Abu, and T V Balan also spoke on the occasion. O Asher, Managing Director—India Operations,

Malabar Gold & Diamonds proposed a vote of thanks.

The Montana Estate Integrated Township, being built by Malabar Developers, will be one of the best nature-friendly human habitats in the country with just 20% of the area covering buildings while the remaining lush green area would be left for the nature's bounty. The project consists of signature bungalows, luxury villas, royal grand apartments, and smart homes for common men. Besides, the township will also have facilities such as world class school, sports academy, spa, resorts, wellness centre, club house, and helipad.

Open playground, facilities for adventure sports, organic farms, lotus ponds, gardens, business centre, mini theatres, food courts, office space, shopping and banking facilities, solar energy, convention centre, round the clock modern safety features and facilities, are among the numerous features of international standards that will make it one of the most-desired living destinations. Facilities such as spacious roads, waste disposable plants at sources, 24/7 assured power, and water treatment plants will make life in Montana Estates memorable.



Lulu Hypermarket launches special Diwali Celebrations

Lulu Hypermarket, the leading retailer in the region, launched its special Diwali Celebrations 2018 to mark the Indian Festival of Lights. The event was launched at the hypermarket's Al Rai outlet on 3 November in the presence of top Lulu management in Kuwait and a large gathering of shoppers and well-wishers. A major highlight of the event was the fun and enjoyable Rangoli Competition that's a vibrant and colorful Rangoli designs being created by ten participating teams.

The top three winners of the Rangoli competition received grand gift vouchers, with the first prize winner receiving gift vouchers worth KD100, while the second and third place winners received KD75 and KD50 worth of gift vouchers respectively. The other participating teams were rewarded

with attractive consolation prizes. Enlivening the atmosphere of the celebrations, a traditional Diwali dance was held that entertained the onlookers.

During the event Lulu Hypermarket presented shoppers with the color and richness of Diwali through an impressive range of Diwali sweets, accessories, fashion and other items that were on offer at special prices. The Diwali festival promotion is in line with Lulu Hypermarket's goal of enhancing the celebration of special events and occasions for its large customer base by sourcing suitable products and accessories. By recreating the magic of special occasions, Lulu Hypermarket highlights its steadfast commitment to offering shoppers the widest range of high-quality products at very competitive prices to enable them to celebrate and enjoy every festive occasion.



Knowledge Club 2018 presents The Productive Leader seminar

Vigor Events - in co-operation with Al Gas Events - is organizing the first 1-day seminar in the Knowledge Club(tm) Season 2 titled The Productive Leader on the 18th of November 2018 in Al Dorra ballroom in Hilton Resort Kuwait conducted by renowned Author of "The Productive Leader". The highly engaging Seminar which is presented by the international leadership expert Sally Foley-Lewis- is designed with the objective for empowering business owners, leaders and managers to be conscious of their thinking and actions to be strong, authentic and confident in their roles.

This lively and interactive Seminar should help Top Management, Business and HR Managers, Heads of Departments and Middle Managers to understand increased self-awareness, knowledge and skills for improving focus and attention, results, relationships with key stakeholders, leadership and career progression. Understand why productivity is far more critical and valuable than time management. Learn easy strategies that are immediately implementable for reducing time-wasters. Increase engagement with direct reports through him proved leadership skills. Know and build skills to motivate and increase the productivity of your team. Build confidence and reach your potential through earning how to work more effectively

This 1-day Seminar is designed to help attendees explore that the productive leader knows how to achieve more. They reduce stress, maximize their time and stay focused by leveraging their skills, people and resources. They are in control, inspire others and are happier. Also Sally fast tracks productivity! She empowers business owners, leaders and managers to be conscious of their thinking and actions to be strong, authentic and confident in their roles.

It is worth mentioning that Sally Foley-Lewis has worked with leaders at all levels across a range of industries from health clubs in Germany to shipbuilding yards and oil and gas companies in the UAE to community organizations in outback Australia. She has developed managers and leaders in aviation, telecoms, hospitality, education, professional services and finance. She created the Management Success Cards, authored the books Successful Feedback and The Productive Leader, and she brings diverse program and project management, and Leadership experiences to her speaking, training and facilitating. She holds exceptional qualifications including an MBA, and an accredited Professional Speaker, Certified Learning Professional and Executive Coach, and a Fellow of the Institute of Learning Professionals

The seminar is part of the Knowledge Club(tm) 2018 is the leading & development platform for top organizations in Kuwait, is attended this year by Warba Bank/ Burgan Bank as Gold Member, Commercial Bank of Kuwait/ Kuwait Oil Company/ Hadi Clinic as Corporate Members and with the media support by the International Advertising Association (IAA) - Kuwait Chapter.



The Italian Embassy Military and Defense Attache Col Vito Cracas hosted a reception on the occasion of Armed Forces Day at Regency Hotel. Higher officials, diplomats, Defense Attaches and media persons attended the event. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



CIS-Kuwait holds lecture series to mark Kerala Day

The Centre for India Studies (CIS), Kuwait organized a brief discourse titled "Tomorrow's Kerala" as part of Kerala Day celebrations. The event was held at the NAFO auditorium Salmiya and was

presided over by CIS President Mahadeva Iyer. The series of lectures focuses on diverse subjects in various domains. Eminent personalities specialized in their respective areas addressed the gathering. Educational aspect was presented by Indian Community School (Amman) Principal Rajesh Nair, 'Role of Media' was presented by journalist Sajeev K Peter, cultural heritage was discussed by NSS Kuwait President Prasad Padmanabhan, social factors by social activist Sashidharan Nattika and financial issues were addressed by journalist Victor George. Cultural activist and writer Vibheesh Thikkodi concluded the session by

summarizing the main points of the lectures. The lecture series discussed some of the major achievements made by Kerala in recent years in the areas of creative thoughts, culture and health sector while taking note of the fact that there is an erosion of values in the fields of education, culture and social sector. The CIS lecture series has become a distinctive experience for the participants as well as the audience who could make creative suggestions on rebuilding the state of Kerala and discuss ideas for a comprehensive development of the state. Satish welcomed the gathering and Prasanth Chandran delivered the vote of thanks.

Health & Science

Philips launches Ingenia Ambition 1.5 T MRI



DUBAI: Over 120 radiologists from around the Middle East attended the Philips launch of their new Ingenia Ambition 1.5 T MRI at the Dubai Opera this Thursday. This exciting new innovation is the latest advance in the Ingenia MRI portfolio and is built around the unique BlueSeal magnet - an industry-first fully sealed magnet for more productive, helium-free

operations. In contrast to classic magnet technology, which requires around 1500 liters of liquid helium for cooling during operation, Philips BlueSeal uses a highly efficient, new micro-cooling technology which requires only a negligible amount (<0.5% of today's volume) of liquid helium for cooling. "MRI provides exceptional diagnostic and therapy guid-

ance capabilities, but it also places substantial operational demands on the hospital or imaging center due to requirements for installation, footprint and service," said Arjen Radder, Global Business Leader for MR at Philips. "BlueSeal is a breakthrough in MRI technology and we're proud to be first to market. The fully-sealed magnet dramatically reduces

the amount of liquid helium needed to cool the magnet to less than half a percent of the current norm.

This results in significant operational benefits for our customers, including a smaller, lighter and more flexible installation footprint and a more efficient return to normal operations if an interruption in service should ever occur."



Skin cancer death rates soar, mostly for men: Study

PARIS: Skin cancer deaths among men have soared in wealthy nations since 1985, with mortality rates among women rising more slowly or even declining, researchers told a medical conference in Glasgow Sunday. Reasons for the discrepancy between sexes are unclear but evidence suggests men are "less likely to protect themselves from the sun" or heed public health warnings, lead researcher Dorothy Yang, a doctor at the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust in London, told AFP.

More than 90 percent of melanoma cancers are caused by skin cell damage from exposure to the sun or other sources of ultraviolet (UV) radiation such as tanning beds, according to the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC). In eight of 18 countries examined, men's skin cancer death rates increased over three decades by at least 50 percent. In two nations — Ireland and Croatia — it roughly doubled.

Also seeing a sharp jump were Spain and Britain (70 percent), The Netherlands (60 percent), as well as France and Belgium (50 percent). In the United States, which was not included in the study, male melanoma mortality went up by about 25 percent, according to CDC statistics. But the nations with the biggest rise in skin cancer deaths were often not with the most elevated mortality rates, the new research showed.

In Australia, for example, nearly six of every 100,000 men succumbed to the dis-

ease in 2013-15. That is twice the second highest death rate (Finland), but only a 10 percent increase compared to 30 years earlier. "Australia has been an early implementer of public health media campaigns since the 1970s to promote 'sun-smart' behaviour," Yang told AFP by phone before presenting her data at the 2018 UK National Cancer Research Institute Conference.

While debate continues as to how much of Australia's record skin cancer rate stems from depletion of UV-filtering ozone in the stratosphere, 30 years of public health campaigns have no doubt made Australians acutely aware of the dangers. The so-called "ozone hole" was especially big over Australia when the efforts kicked off.

Skin cancer deaths among women in 1985 in Australia occurred at half the rate as for men, and declined by 10 percent over the next 30 years, Yang and three colleagues reported. Other countries where female mortality from the disease went down over the same period are Austria (nine percent), the Czech Republic (16 percent), and Israel (23 percent). In several other nations — Romania, Sweden and Britain — there were slight increases.

In some other sun-loving nations, however, women saw at least as sharp a jump from 1985 to 2015 in death rates as men: The Netherlands (58 percent), Ireland (49 percent), Belgium (67 percent) and Spain (74 percent). Japan has by far the lowest melanoma mortality, for both men and women, at 0.24 and 0.18 per 100,000, respectively. Scientists are investigating whether biological or genetic factors might also play a role in skin cancer, but findings so far are inconclusive, Yang said. — AFP

Polluted Delhi air akin to death sentence

NEW DELHI: Yogesh Kumar wheezes after life-saving surgery to remove a diseased lung, but his doctors wonder how long he can last outside hospital breathing some of the world's dirtiest air. Smog is blamed for the deaths of more than one million Indians every year and Delhi — which yesterday had emergency pollution levels more than 35 times the World Health Organization safe limit — has the worst air of any global capital.

Every November, hospital wards fill with gasping patients as the tell-tale thick grey haze which hit on Monday shrouds the city of 20 million. "Delhi air is like a death sentence for him," said Srinivas K Gopinath, a thoracic surgeon at Sir Ganga Ram hospital in the Indian capital where 29-year-old Kumar was treated. Gopinath fears for his patient, who survived tuberculosis but is now at the mercy of another invisible killer.

As cooler air traps pollutants close to the ground, Delhi's levels of PM2.5 — particles so tiny they can enter the lungs and bloodstream — soar dangerously. One of the worst times is around the Hindu festival of Diwali as smoke from millions of crackers set off by festive revelers mingles with car exhaust, factory emissions, construction dust and smoke from crop fires in nearby states. Pollution readings can reach so high they do not register on scientific instruments. In the Anand Vihar suburb, the PM2.5 level rocketed to 908 yesterday. The WHO sets 25 as its recommended average safe level. Kumar is due to be discharged from hospital around the time of the festival tomorrow. "Inside (the hospital) the air quality is maintained, but once he steps out the bad air will start affecting him," Gopinath told AFP. "His resistance is weak. He has only one lung which



NEW DELHI: Vehicles drive past amid heavy smog along a busy road. — AFP

is now really precious. Imagine having to cope up with such bad air with only one lung."

But Kumar is far from alone. Children, the elderly and those with respiratory ailments like asthma suffer the most from Delhi's smog, which lingers until late February. Exposure to toxic air kills hundreds of thousands of children every year, the WHO said in an October report. Children breathe more rapidly than adults, taking twice as much polluted air into their tiny bodies. It has devastating effects on children in Delhi, say doctors.

"A child who is born in Delhi is taking in gulps of bad air which is equivalent to smoking 20 to 25 cigarettes on the first day of his life," said Arvind Kumar, a prominent Delhi lung surgeon. For years the surgeon has tirelessly campaigned to raise awareness about the dangers of air pollution, which the WHO last month likened to the tobacco epidemic. On hospital grounds this weekend Arvind

Kumar ordered the installation of giant, artificial lungs fitted with filters to demonstrate the damaging effects of smog.

Many of the patients he sees already bear physical scars from breathing a lifetime of Delhi air. "These are non-smokers, but even they have black lungs," he told AFP. "Even teenagers have black spots on their lungs. This is frightening." Despite Delhi's smog reappearing every winter, official efforts to combat it have been ineffectual. Emergency measures such as banning construction, cutting down traffic and prohibiting the use of diesel generators have had little effect. More long-term solutions remain elusive. State governments have refused to cooperate on root causes of the crisis, such as farmers using fire to clear their land on the outskirts of Delhi. Surgeon Kumar said pollution needed to be tackled at its source. "Everything else is just eyewash," he said. — AFP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

248 33 199

Dr. Husain Alenezi

-Board Certified Urologist.
-Endourology Society-Approved Fellowship In Endourology And Robotic Surgery At Western University, Ontario, Canada.

Expert in diagnosing and treating:

- 1- Urinary Stones (Kidney, Ureter & Bladder) By Endoscopy & Laser
- 2- Prostate Cancer And Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia
- 3- Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms In Males And Females
- 4- Tumors And Malignancies Of The Urinary Tract (Kidney, Adrenals, Ureter, Bladder And Testes)
- 5- Male Factor Infertility And Varicoceles (Microscopic Surgery)
- 6- Erectile Dysfunction



To advertise on this Page



Call: 24833199 ext:101,102
or Direct line: 24835616 / 24835617
or email: ads@kuwaittimes.com

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

248 33 199

DR. MOHAMMAD AL HAJRY
Canadian Board of Otolaryngology
Head & Neck Surgery and Facial Plastics.
Fellow of Royal College of Surgeons-Canada
A rare Subspecialty in Microscopic Ear Surgery, Cochlear implant & Ear diseases

- ◆ Diagnosis/ Treatment of General Ears, Nose, and Throat conditions in adults & pediatrics
- ◆ Minimally invasive Endoscopic sinus surgery including Balloon sinuplasty
- ◆ Minimally invasive Microscopic & Endoscopic Ear surgery
- ◆ Diagnosis & treatment of Otolology and Audiology (Hearing loss, Tinnitus & balance disorders)
- ◆ Facial Plastic and reconstructive surgeries (Rhinoplasty, Otoplasty, Fillers & Botox injections)
- ◆ Diagnosis & treatment of snoring & obstructive sleep apnea in clinic without surgery
- ◆ Diagnosis & Treatment of voice and swallowing disorders
- ◆ Diagnosis & Treatment of Head and Neck benign & malignant tumors.

Salmiya, Belajat Street, Tel: 1881122

@Malhajry

DR. FAHAD S BUHAIMED
Consultant Cosmetic Dermatologist & Hair Transplant, NY

ACADAMIC CERTIFICATES:

- o Dermatology board certified.
- o Fellowship training program in cosmetic dermatology and hair transplant, New York, USA.
- o Member of American cosmetic dermatology society.
- o Referee reviewer of International Journal of Dermatology.

SPECIALIZED IN:

- o Dermatology & Cosmetic Treatments.
- o Laser Treatments.
- o Hair Transplant & Restoration.
- o Body & Face Contouring.
- o Injectable Fillers & Botox.

SHARQ, Ahmad Aljaber St., Building 14, Floor 13.
Tel: (+965) 22060777.
@DrFahadS, @Renova, @daralshifa
Email: drfahad@beautybeyond.com.kw

Global Medical Center Welcomes
Dr. Marzouq Al-Bader
Consultant vascular and general surgery

All general and specialized surgeries such as:

- All critical and non-critical arteries and veins surgeries
- All methods of treating varicose
- Special department for care of injured diabetic foot
- Carrying out delicate procedures such as removing the extra rib
- Treating excess perspiration
- AV connection for dialysis

**Global Medical Center, Bneid Al-Qar
Bour Saeed Street, Block-1, Building-128.**

Telephone: 1871111 @globalmedcenter
www.globalmed-center.com

Dr. Ahmad Alaeddine
Head of Cardiology departmenta at Dar Al Shifa hospital

- Consultant Interventional and conventional cardiologist.
- Specialised in the Diagnosis and treatment of all adult cardiac diseases, including those cases that need urgent intervention in Cath lab (primary angioplasty).

**مستشفى دار الشفا
Dar Al Shifa Hospital
Tele:1802 555**

daralshifa

DR KHALED ALMERRI
Consultant interventional Cardiology
Department: Heart & Vascular Center

Specialized in:

- 1-Diagnostic and therapeutic cardiac catheterization (Angiography and Angioplasty). Aortic valve implantation.
- 2- Diagnosis and treatment of coronary artery diseases
- 3- Diagnosis and treatment of heart failure, cardiomyopathies and valvular diseases.
- 4-Diagnosis and treatment of high blood pressure and high cholesterol.
- 5- Diagnosis and treatment of syncope, palpitations and cardiac arrhythmias.
- 6- Non-invasive diagnostic procedures echocardiography, exercise stress test, and 24 hour blood pressure and Holter monitoring

alsalam.int.hospital

Know your Doctor
Otorhinolaryngology (E.N.T)
Dr Hamoud Abdullah Alarouj
ENT Specialist

- ◆ Laryngology Fellowship - Canada
- ◆ Fellow of the European Board Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery
- ◆ Member of the American Academy of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery
- ◆ Member of the British Laryngological Association
- ◆ Member of the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery
- ◆ Member of the Eurpean Laryngological Society

Specialized in:

- ◆ Management of benign and malignant vocal cord lesions.
- ◆ Vocal cord augmentation.
- ◆ Treatment of spasmodic dysphonia.
- ◆ Adenotonsillectomy using latest techniques.
- ◆ Thyroid surgery.
- ◆ Surgery for the deviated nasal septum.
- ◆ Endoscopic sinus surgery.
- ◆ Treatment of allergic rhinitis.
- ◆ Treatment of snoring.
- ◆ Treatment of vertigo.

alsalam.int.hospital

IC INTERNATIONAL CLINIC
Member of the Society of American Gastrointestinal & Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES)
Higher specialization in Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary surgery & Organ Transplantation
Member of many prestigious surgical societies.

- ◆ Day case surgeries
- ◆ Minor surgeries (lipoma, sebaceous cyst, ingrowing nail)
- ◆ Diagnosis, treatment and follow up of all surgical emergencies
- ◆ Hemorrhoids, fistula & anal fissure surgeries
- ◆ Surgery for morbid obesity (sleeve, gastric bypass)
- ◆ Breast surgeries
- ◆ Hernia repair
- ◆ Thyroid & adrenal surgeries
- ◆ Surgery for reflux disease
- ◆ Cholecystectomy & laparoscopic appendectomy
- ◆ Liver, pancreas & bile ducts surgeries

Dr. Hani Haider
General Surgery Consultant

http://www.international-clinic.com Tel: 1886677 ic_kwt

Scope of Clinical Practice:

- ◆ General & Laparoscopic Surgery
- ◆ Single Port Surgery
- ◆ Treatment of Colo-Rectal Diseases, Including Colorectal Cancer
- ◆ Surgical Treatment of Inflammatory Bowel Abscess
- ◆ Treatment of Perianal Fistula & Complex Perianal Fistula (complications)
- ◆ VAAFT Procedure (Treatment of Fistula through Fistuloscope)
- ◆ Treatment of Irritable Bowel Symptoms
- ◆ Colonoscopy & Gastroscopy
- ◆ Stomach Balloon Insertion & removal
- ◆ Bariatric Surgery - Lap Sleeve Gastrectomy
- ◆ Gallstones & Abdominal Hernias Surgery
- ◆ Colonic Hydrotherapy & Fecal Incontinence Treatment
- ◆ Laparoscopic mini bypass
- ◆ Transanal minimally invasive surgery

Academic Certificates, Trainings & Fellowships:

- ◆ American Board of General Surgery
- ◆ Fellow of American College of Surgery
- ◆ Canadian Board of General Surgery
- ◆ Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada
- ◆ American Board of Colo - Rectal Surgery
- ◆ American Board of Surgical Critical Care

Dr. Abdullah Al Haddad
Surgery Department
Consultant General Surgery, Laparoscopic & Colo - Rectal Surgeon

daralshifa
Email: aalhaddad@daralshifa.com

DR. FAHAD AL-MUKHAIZEEM
Consultant Pediatrician

Consultant Pediatrician-Canadian & American Board in Pediatrics-Canadian Board in Pediatric Emergency

Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368
Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St.1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B

DR. WALEED S BUHAIMED
Consultant of General Surgery
Laprosopic and Bariatric Surgery

Academic Certificates - Training

- ◆ Kuwait Board of General Surgery.
- ◆ (IFSO) member .
- ◆ Faculty member of (BEST).
- ◆ Member of Kuwait Surgical Association.

Scope of clinical Practice.

- ◆ Bariatric surgeries.
- ◆ Gallbladder stones surgeries.
- ◆ Abdominal wall and hernia surgeries.
- ◆ G.I. surgeries.
- ◆ Thyroid and para - thyroid surgeries.
- ◆ Anal surgeries.

email: wbuhaimed@gmail.com Tel.: 965 22269411/ Mob.: 965 99212228 Jabriya, 4th Ring Road, Block 1A Floor 9 - Clover Center Mazaya Building

Stars

CROSSWORD 2053



ACROSS

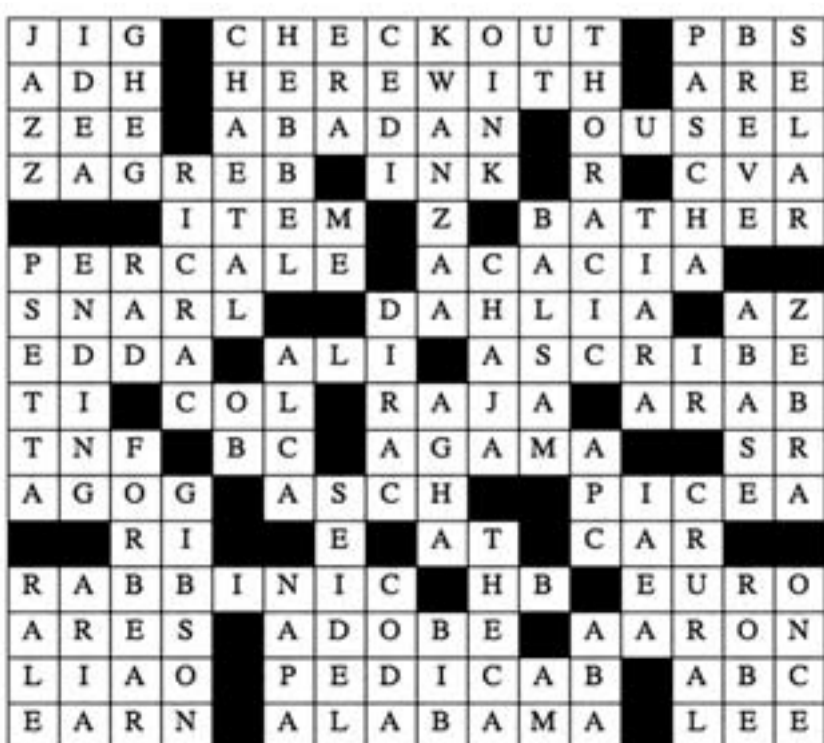
1. A dark-skinned member of a race of people living in Australia when Europeans arrived.
4. A recognition of meritorious service.
12. A gradual decline (in size or strength or power or number).
15. A cgs unit of work or energy.
16. Outer membrane covering an axon.
17. Canadian hockey player (born 1948).
18. Soft blue-gray mineral.
20. A unit of current equal to 10 amperes.
21. A unit of length of thread or yarn.
22. Pick consisting of a steel rod with a sharp point.
24. A state of disorder involving group violence.
26. Marked with stria or striations.
27. Small often spiny insectivorous mammal of Madagascar.
28. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
29. The 9th letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
32. A river in central Italy rising in the Apennines and flowing through Florence and Pisa to the Ligurian Sea.
35. Thickening of tissue in the motor tracts of the lateral columns and anterior horns of the spinal cord.
37. Suggestive of the supernatural.
39. The main city of ancient Phoenicia.
41. Medium-sized larch of Canada and northern United States including Alaska having a broad conic crown and rust-brown scaly bark.
44. Clothing of a distinctive style or for a particular occasion.
46. Plant with an elongated head of broad stalked leaves resembling celery.
47. Projectiles to be fired from a gun.
48. A potent narcotic antagonist (trade name Narcan) especially effective with morphine.
49. Of or relating to or characteristic of the country of Romania or its people or languages.
51. Used of a single unit or thing.
52. Not regulated or sanctioned by law.
55. A graphical recording of the cardiac cycle produced by an electrocardiograph.
57. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
59. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
62. Cattle that are reared for their meat.
65. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
69. Any culture medium that uses agar as the gelling agent.
72. A port city in southwestern Turkey on the Gulf of Antalya.
74. A desert in central Asia.
75. Reprehensible acquisitiveness.
77. To make a mistake or be incorrect.
78. Largest known toad species.
79. A radical labor movement in the United States founded in nd dedicated to the overthrow of capitalism.
80. (meaning literally 'born') Used to indicate the maiden or family name of a married woman.

DOWN

1. Kindly endorsement and guidance.
2. A modified leaf or leaflike part just below and protecting an inflorescence.

3. A viewer who gives a flirtatious or lewd look at another person.
4. Wildly disordered.
5. A bet that you can pick the first and second finishers in the right order.
6. A polyvalent metallic element that resembles chromium and tungsten in its properties.
7. Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.
8. (informal) 'johnny' was applied as a nickname for Confederate soldiers by the Federal soldiers in the American Civil War.
9. A hostel for pilgrims in Turkey.
10. A complex inorganic compound that contains ammonia molecules.
11. Mostly tropical stinging herbs or trees.
12. The dialect of Ancient Greek spoken in Thessaly and Boeotia and Aeolis.
13. A submachine gun operated by gas pressure.
14. (informal) Exceptionally good.
19. Of writing or narration.
23. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
25. The capital and largest city of Iran.
30. A member of the Algonquian people formerly inhabiting the Maritime Provinces of Canada.
31. An Asian river.
33. A switch made from the stems of the rattan palms.
34. (KNO3) Used especially as a fertilizer and explosive.
36. A fixed lark with eyes open wide v l.
38. Tall perennial herb of tropical Asia with dark green leaves.
40. A genus of orb-weaving spiders including common garden spiders and barn spiders.
42. A final climatic stage.
43. Informal terms for a mother.
45. An organic compound that contains a hydroxyl group bonded to a carbon atom which in turn is doubly bonded to another carbon atom.
50. A flat wing-shaped process or wing-like part of an organism.
53. A soft gray ductile metallic element used in alloys.
54. I species.
56. A dark region of considerable extent on the surface of the moon.
58. The cry made by sheep.
60. Highly excited.
61. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
63. A British peer ranking below a Marquess and above a Viscount.
64. The front of the head from the forehead to the chin and ear to ear.
66. (Scottish) A narrow secluded valley (in the mountains).
67. Engage or hire for work.
68. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
70. Informal terms for the mouth.
71. 100 avos equal 1 pataca.
73. A potent estrogen used in medicine and in feed for livestock and poultry.
76. Being one more than one.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

It seems the focus in your life is beginning to change. You have a strong desire to be in total control of everything and everyone surrounding you. You are ready to get things organized. You are driven by ambition and are becoming very responsible. You may find you are so focused you are moving full steam ahead. Pace yourself as to not burn out before you accomplish all of your goals. Sometimes you need to remind yourself to work smarter, rather than harder. Do not let frustration get in your way. Keep your focus and drive but remember to do always do the right thing. You can expect great rewards from your hard work.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Out with the old. Bring on the new, exciting and wild. What a rebel you are! If it goes against tradition you are all about it today. You crave excitement and the same old, same old, just isn't going to cut it for you. Change is in the air. A new hairstyle, a new outfit, or a visit to a new place tonight may be just what you need to add a little excitement to your life. Go have some fun!



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may find yourself wanting to broaden your horizons. You know this is a big world and your life is contained in a tiny square of it. It may be time to take a step out of that box and find what the world has to offer you. You could find it difficult to communicate with others today because you find your mind is a million miles away. Curiosity has taken a hold on you and you can't seem to stay focused on the here and now. You may find this evening that a good book may be just what you need to find this escape you have been searching for. A good time for rest and relaxation is in order for you.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

It may seem that just as everything is settling in and becoming comfortable. Be careful not to let things become boring. Remember the grass is not always greener on the other side. You may find today brings many options and temptations into your world. Take time to make careful choices and take all consequences into consideration before making a move. You will find comfort in knowing you are financially sound and things seem to be going your way in this aspect today. Actions have consequences. Cancer, keep this in mind today.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

No decision will be made without deep thought and research. You are well aware your actions have consequences. You are extremely focused and determined to set the stage for great success. You may find yourself accounting for every detail. You seem to be taking life very seriously now. You could find your health and career to be a major focus for you. Be sure and take some time to relax as you know what they say about "all work and no play".



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Place much focus on solidifying your foundation today. From your love of your own life to your love of family the roots are the key to success. You may find yourself in a very nurturing mood today. Plant the seeds today and prepare for great rewards from your work in the future. Now is a great time to start that diet you have been considering and to start to take care of yourself. You could find you may feel as if you are spinning your wheels, but Rome was not built in a day and you will soon start to truly see results from your actions. Virgo, keep your focus and push on!



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Today may find you with a new appreciation for the beauty that surrounds you. You may feel as though you are seeing the world through a new set of eyes. Learning to appreciate the little things in life can bring happiness into your world like never before. Count your blessings. Remember each day is a gift and learn to live as if each day may be your last. Live, Laugh, and Love. You may find your positive attitude and love of life may be contagious. You will bring happiness into the lives of those close to you today. You wear that smile so well.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You may be facing a very emotional issue in your life today. It may seem your desire to be respected by others is very strong. You may find yourself even demanding this from others today. You may find yourself becoming very organized and structured. A strong will takes hold. You may discover you may not only have a knack for organizing things, but you have one for organizing people as well. This makes you a great leader and this quality could be acknowledged in the workplace today. Your ability to work with haste and little emotion makes you a natural in a position of leadership or management. You may find that you are not as appreciative of those around you.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

As you enter a new cycle in your life mental discipline and patience are becoming very important to you. No decision will be made without deep thought and research. You are well aware your actions have consequences. You are extremely focused and determined to set the stage for great success. You may find yourself accounting for every detail. You seem to be taking life very seriously now. You could find your health and career to be a major focus for you. Be sure and take some time to relax as you know what they say about "all work and no play".



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Today may bring a sense of isolation your way. This is not always a bad thing. Time spent alone can be used in prayer or meditation. A time to truly get in touch with yourself. Spend some time working on you. Sometimes you get so caught up in caring for others you forget to give yourself the same time and attention. Embrace the silence that surrounds you today and really listen to what your mind and body are telling you. You may need rest. You need to feed your soul just as you feed your body. Spend a quiet evening of escape alone. Run a bath, light the candles, and dim the lights.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

People sometimes wonder about the secret to your contentment. It's not something you think about. You just go about each day being helpful and kind. You consider being reliable a part of who you are. You are not working at being happy, but happiness is a by-product of your lifestyle. If you could bottle and sell it, you might become financially rich. But you know that money is not the key to riches. You reap your rewards by continuing to invest in others.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You may have been so focused lately you have been missing out on a social life. Today is a great day to get out and about. Hit the town but choose your company wisely as not to experience any conflict while doing so. Surround yourself with like-minded friends. Choose friends who are positive and share your love of life. You may find yourself experiencing a real spiritual awakening and the desire to share this with others. You should be pleasantly pleased at how receptive your friends are. A great day for you where the lines of communication open in all aspects of your world. We all need a bit of change from time to time. Keep life interesting and exciting.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Happy New Year

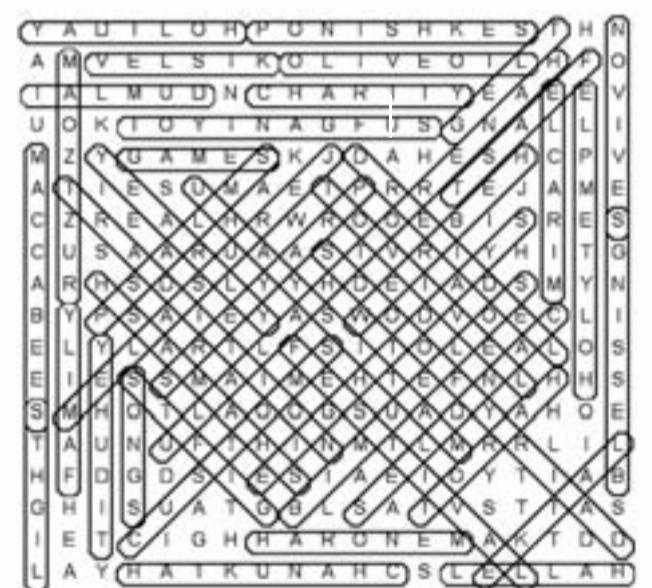
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of a popular location for celebrating New Years Eve.



- | | | | |
|------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| APPETIZERS | DECORATIONS | HATS | PARADES |
| BABIES | END OF DECEMBER | HOLIDAY | PARTY |
| BALLOONS | EVENTS | HORNS | PUNCH |
| BANNERS | FAMILY | KISSES | RESOLUTIONS |
| BUFFET | FATHER TIME | MIDNIGHT | SINGING |
| CELEBRATE | FEAST | MUSIC | STREAMERS |
| CHAMPAGNE | FESTIVITIES | NEW YEARS DAY | THIRTY FIRST |
| CONFETTI | FIREWORKS | NEW YEARS EVE | TIARAS |
| DANCE | FIRST OF JANUARY | NOISEMAKERS | WINE |
| DAY ONE | FRIENDS | OCCASION | YEAR IN REVIEW |

Yesterday's Solution

Hanukkah



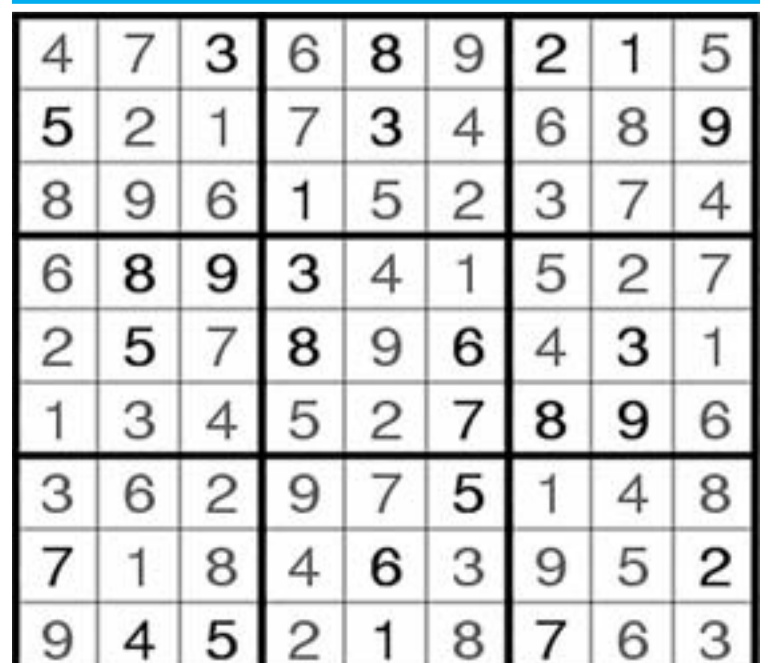
- | | | | |
|-------------|----------------|------------|------------|
| BEMUELOS | FESTIVAL | LATKE | PSALMS |
| BLESSINGS | GAMES | LEVIVOT | SEVIVON |
| CANDLES | GELT | LIGHTS | SHAMASH |
| CHANUKIAH | GIFTS | MA'OZ TZUR | SONGS |
| CHARITY | HALLEL | MACCABEES | SUFGANIVOT |
| CUSTOMS | HANEROT HALALU | MATTISVAHU | TALMUD |
| DAIRY FOODS | HEBREW | MENORAH | TORAH |
| DREIDEL | HOLIDAY | MIRACLE | TRADITION |
| EIGHT DAYS | HOLY TEMPLE | OLIVE OIL | YEARLY |
| FAMILY | JERUSALEM | PONTSNIKES | YEHUJIT |
| FEAST | KISLEV | PRAYERS | |

The hidden message is: HANUKKAH IS A JEWISH HOLIDAY THAT LASTS EIGHT DAYS

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Lifestyle

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2018



US-Cuban singer Camila Cabello poses with her four awards backstage during the MTV Europe Music Awards at the Bizkaia Arena in the northern Spanish city of Bilbao.—AFP

Qatar Exhibition displays work of 25 Kuwaiti photographers



Katara cultural center in Qatar, yesterday, hosted photography exhibition of 50 photoshoots by 25 Kuwaiti photographers. Youth Hobbies Centre and Kuwait Science Club along with Qatar's Ministry of Culture and Sports organized

the exhibition. Award-winning photography of wildlife, sports, sights of nature and civilizations were featured. Some of the images were seen via drones to give unique perspectives. — KUNA



Heavy rains greet screening of Hollywood movie 'Patton' in Kuwait

By Ben Garcia



Heavy rains greeted the second Hollywood movie screened in Kuwait as part of the US Embassy's ongoing Discover America Week. 'First Man' was the first movie that was screened at VOX Cinema at The Avenues last week. Discover America Week highlights 25 different events showcasing American culture, food, restaurants, fashion, music, film, education, tourism, business, automobiles and healthy lifestyles.

'Patton' was screened at Yarmouk Cultural Theater. Patton is a biopic about a controversial World War II hero General George S Patton. The film was specifically selected by the US Embassy to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the US Army Central Command and for their bravery, dedication and hard work in securing and preserving peace and stability in the region and the rest of the world, including America.

Speaking in a video played before the movie screening, US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman said: "To our soldiers deployed all over the world, and also in Kuwait, a happy 100th birthday! Thank you for your sacrifice in exchange of peace and stability. Thank you dear soldiers, civilians and family members."

Ravi Candadai, US Embassy Councilor for Public Affairs, attended the occasion on behalf of the US ambassador. Candadai said that they selected the movie Patton to be showcased in this year's Discover America Week as it talks about his achievements, accomplishments, his entry into the North African campaign and his outspoken criticism of the US post-war military strategy.

Lifestyle | Awards



US-Cuban singer Camila Cabello speaks after winning the Best Video award during the MTV Europe Music Awards at the Bizkaia Arena in the northern Spanish city of Bilbao. — AFP photos



Brazilian singer Anitta



Nigerian singer Tiwa Savage



German singer Mike Singer

Camila Cabello sweeps

MTV Europe awards

US singer Camila Cabello swept the MTV Europe Music Awards on Sunday, winning best song with her hit "Havana" as well as best artist and best video. "This year has been the best of my life," the 21-year-old Cuban native said at the event in Bilbao, northern Spain. Cabello had opened the show hosted by American actress and singer Hailee Steinfeld with a rendition of her Latin-influenced "Havana".

She is fresh from winning prestigious prizes at the MTV Video Music Awards in August—artist of the year and video of the year—after her album "Camila" reached the top of US charts in January. The audio version of "Havana", which features rapper Young Thug, has had more than 1.3 billion hits on YouTube. The former member of the band Fifth Harmony was also named best pop artist at last year's MTV Europe Music Awards.

Cabello had six nominations, followed by five each for singer Ariana Grande and rapper Post Malone and Canadian artist Drake and Britain's Dua Lipa with four. With two awards—for best hip hop artist and best look—US rapper Nicki Minaj held her own, making two appearances on stage, with French DJ David Guetta and US singer Jason Derulo. Dua Lipa won best pop artist, while the US group Panic! at the Disco won best alternative artist and Marshmello snagged best electro artist.

Canadian singer Shawn Mendes, winner of three prizes in 2017, won best live artist. US veteran Janet Jackson was crowned a "global icon", a title previously awarded to U2, Queen, Whitney Houston and Eminem. Accepting the award, she addressed abused women, saying: "I am one of those women, women who have been gagged both literally and emotionally, women who



Trinidadian-US rapper Nicki Minaj



US singer and Global Icon Award recipient Janet Jackson



US band Panic! at the Disco



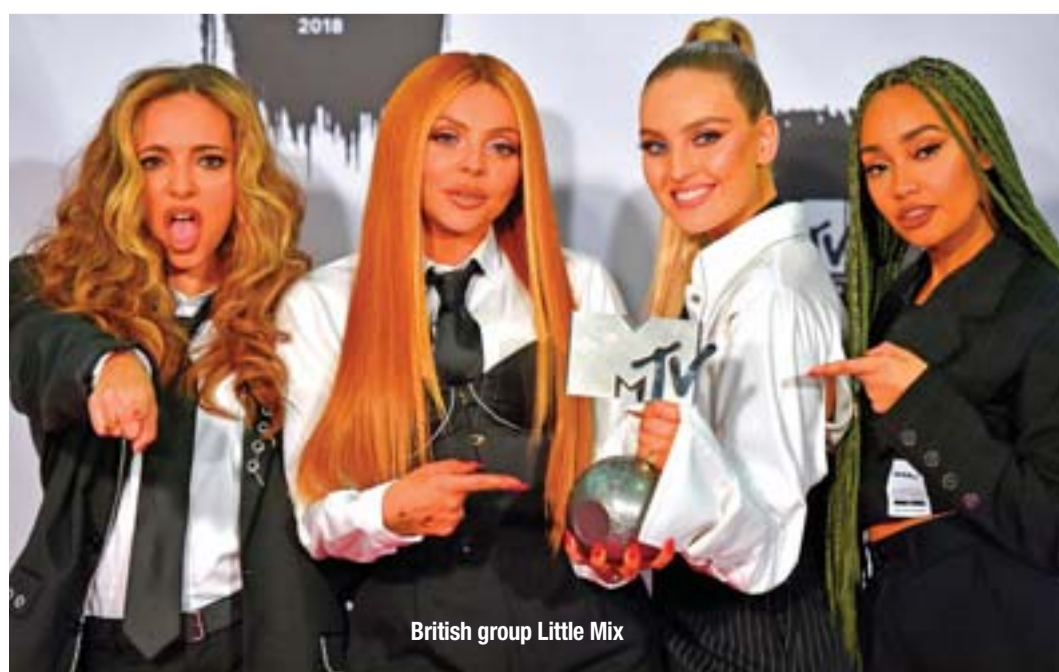
Dutch music producer Jack Shirak



Hungarian band Follow the Flow



English singer Dua Lipa



British group Little Mix



US DJ-producer Marshmello



Canadian singer Alessia Cara



British band Bastille and US DJ-producer Marshmello perform during the MTV Europe Music Awards.



US singer Bebe Rexha



US singer Jason Derulo



US duo Jack & Jack



English singer Anne-Marie and US DJ-producer Marshmello



Spanish singer Rosalia



US singer and host Hailee Steinfeld



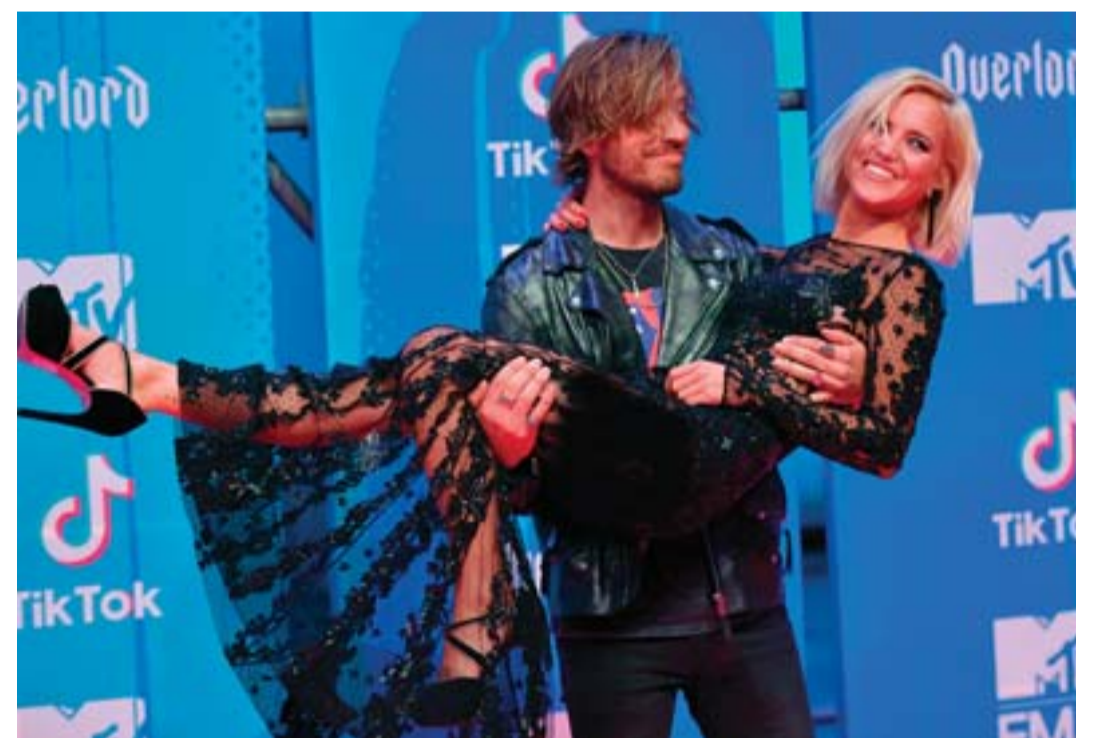
US singer Halsey



US actor Terry Crews jumps backstage during the MTV Europe Music Awards.



Chinese singer Boogie Wang poses on the red carpet.



Spanish singer Adrian Roma carries Spanish actress Ana Fernandez



Spanish group Sweet California



Portuguese actress Rita Pereira



Spanish singer Brisa Fenoy

Lifestyle | Features



This photo shows David MacMillan, an expert from SparrowHawk Far East company, operating the ground-penetrating radar machine while students look on during a search for mass graves at a school compound in Prey Veng province.



Cambodian students clear the site before experts using ground-penetrating radar machine search for mass graves at a school compound in Prey Veng province.



This picture shows experts from SparrowHawk Far East company with two teachers praying by the spirit house before the search for mass graves at a school compound in Prey Veng province. — AFP photos

Hidden history: Radar probes mass graves from Khmer Rouge era

A man walks gingerly over a small field in rural Cambodia, pushing a lawnmower-like contraption that deploys ground-penetrating radar to unearth clues of mass graves. The pilot project is twinning technology and fieldwork to locate remains of victims of the Khmer Rouge, the ultra-Maoist regime whose quest to build an agrarian utopia from 1975-1979 left an estimated two million Cambodians dead.

Hacked to death, starved, overworked or ravaged by illness, their bodies were dumped in hastily dug pits all over the country. They were thrown in rice paddies, down caves and on the grounds of Buddhist monasteries. Many of the "Killing Fields" have been logged, providing experts with an estimate of 20,000 mass graves—which is defined as a pit containing four or more bodies—throughout the country. But researchers are now turning to radar to uncover more details on the existing sites—such as how many bodies they might contain—and find new ones.

"This is the first time ever that we have used high-end technology in Cambodia to locate mass graves created by the Khmer Rouge," said Pheng Pong-Rasy from the Documentation Center of Cambodia (DC-Cam),

which is overseeing the effort. He added that DC-Cam decided to start the new search in the eastern province of Prey Veng, where the Khmer Rouge's revolutionary movement had some of its early gains. "The children must know their own history, what happened in their location," he said.

'How many victims'

They began in late October next to buildings at Mesang High School—specifically plots close to some concrete toilets and an outdoor cafeteria. The area was once a worship site but the Khmer Rouge converted it into a place for executions. After the regime fell a school was built nearby. Students and residents helped clear the overgrown area and operators from SparrowHawk Far East, a new Phnom Penh-based company tapped to test out the idea, walked over it sending radar signals below that can later be developed into three-dimensional images.

"When there is an object underground or the ground has been disturbed before, if there was a hole dug, it will give off a different signature," managing director Michael Henshaw told AFP. "It's good for find-

ing underground utilities like water pipes and electric pipes, it's good for archeology to find old structures underground," he said. "But it's also been used to find mass graves." Khmer Rouge researchers have since the 1990s relied mainly on meticulous interviews with the regime's victims and perpetrators to pinpoint the locations of mass graves.

Elsewhere radar has helped locate indigenous burial sites—graves from the Spanish Civil War in 1936-1939 and victims of the 1990s conflict in Bosnia. In September, it also aided in the discovery of at least 166 bodies in the Mexican state of Veracruz, a territory plagued by drug cartels. Henshaw said the results can bring about a greater understanding of what happened in Cambodia. "We can try to put a better number on how many victims there actually were," he said.

Died without justice

As curious students look on, Henshaw examines preliminary results on a screen while the sun, interrupted by the occasional rainshower, beats down. He points to what he calls "anomalies", which look like small ridges next to each other, possibly signifying decomposed

remains. "But this definitely tells you that there is something under the ground, and there's a lot of it."

SparrowHawk is plugging the data into special software and preparing a full report on their findings, and DC-CAM will then make a decision on how far to replicate the study. No matter the results from Prey Veng there will be no excavations and reburials. In keeping with local tradition, the remains will not be disturbed and will stay where they are. "They already died without justice, so if we dig up graves, it will destroy their souls," Pong-Rasy said. "We just want to know how many bodies are in the graves."

DC-Cam maintains a database of mass graves previously discovered and it has provided information on sites to a war crimes tribunal that has convicted two top Khmer Rouge officials and a chief jailer. But Youk Chhang, DC-Cam's director, said the picture is still incomplete. "Crimes do not end at a tribunal," he told AFP, adding that a better future for Cambodia required "understanding the horrors" of its past. "We should not stop searching for the answers." — AFP

In liberal Washington, dating leaves conservatives with much to desire

Dante Bucci is a 22-year-old marketing student who lives in one of Washington's most hip neighborhoods. The New Jersey native is clean cut, well dressed and well spoken. But as a Republican in one of the most liberal cities in America, his political views are kryptonite in the US capital's dating world, where he frequently finds himself attracted to Democrats. "A lot of first dates. Not a lot of second dates," Bucci says of his love life these days. "I think Donald Trump has a lot to do with that."

In the 2016 presidential election, Trump earned... four percent of the vote in the District of Columbia. It's not exactly great math for a young, single conservative man who backed the real estate mogul. And with November's key midterm vote stoking political tensions, Republicans like Bucci are finding that romance is all but dead. "They want to date someone that they can agree with on some issues," laments Bucci, who supports abortion rights and gay marriage and calls himself a moderate Republican. "I'm a Republican but... I've started so many sentences that way."

Website for Trump lovers

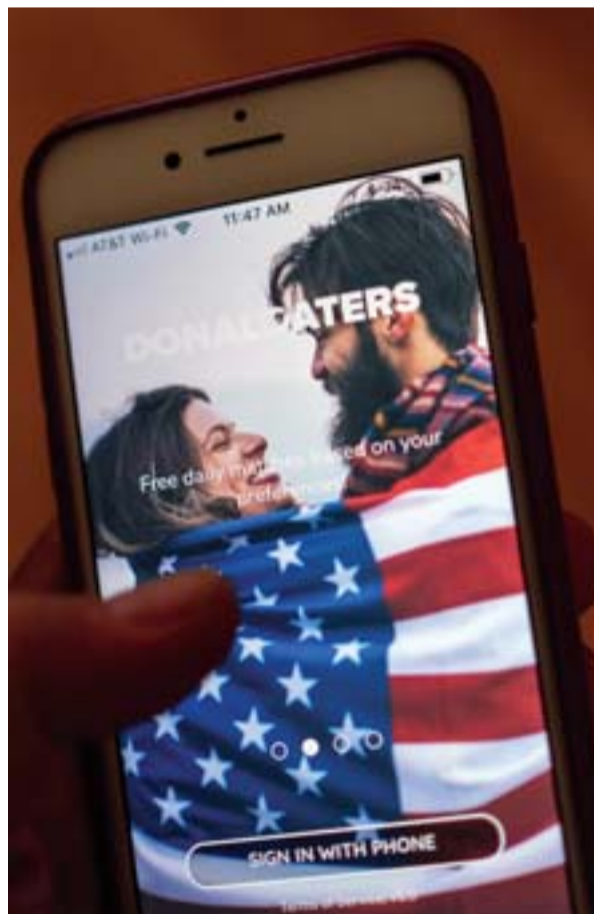
Enter: DonaldDaters.com, a website connecting those who support the Republican president. Its slogan? "Make America Date Again," of course. "I felt a real need for this app," said Emily Moreno, a 25-year-old Republican who founded the site after speaking to many of her friends. Moreno said that many people in Washington said if they mentioned working for Trump or Republican causes to a potential love match, "the date is shut down—it's a deal-breaker."

Four days after launching the site in mid-October, Moreno said the app had been downloaded 20,000 times. One senior adviser for a Republican member of Congress tried the app because he has found dating as a gay Trump supporter a particular challenge. "The gay guys in DC are really close-minded," the 31-year-old who wished to remain anonymous told AFP, calling himself "a minority within a minority within the minority." He noted that the dislike goes both ways.

"If someone was super into Hillary Clinton, I would be turned off by that," he explained. On other widely used dating apps like Tinder or Bumble, Bucci said he found nothing but landmines. According to a sample of several dozen Tinder profiles consulted by AFP, many women urged Republicans guys to swipe left—meaning to pass them by.



Dante Bucci, a 22-year-old marketing student from New Jersey, who has lived in Washington DC for 5 years, gives an interview to AFP on the difficulties of dating in Washington, DC. — AFP photos



A person looks at DonaldDaters, a new dating phone app, in Los Angeles.

The Spanish Inquisition

Kendall, 23, is one of those women. "Allergic to bees and Republicans" reads the bio on her Tinder profile. "They don't respect my autonomy. They don't respect women. They voted for a person who openly bragged about sexually assaulting women so no," she told AFP when asked why she was ruling out the men of the GOP. Bucci says that so many of his first dates go off the rails with the first question: "Did you vote for Donald Trump?"

When he says yes, he gets all kinds of responses, not all of them pleasant.

"Sometimes they probe me into why I voted Trump, as if it's a murder and I'm on trial," he said, adding that his friends are having similar experiences. "It really is tiring." "Sometimes, it's 'Whoa, I thought you were better than that.' Other times, it's 'You seemed like a nice person.'" One of Bucci's friends even had a drink thrown in his face.

Not a normal city

As a result of the difficult dating scene, Bucci—who works for a high-profile conservative organization while pursuing his studies—is considering leaving Washington for good. He says his lackluster love life is about 20 percent of his reason for wanting to go. "This is not a normal city," he says. "You can't even go for a drink without talking about the Supreme Court or the deficit." Moreno, who grew up in Ohio but lives in Washington, says whenever you meet someone in the US capital, you get asked two things: "Where are you from and where do you work?"

While Moreno is now seeing someone, she said her past dating life left something to be desired. "When you say, 'Yes, I voted for Trump,' you don't get past" the first date, she said. "I lost friends over the 2016 election." For Bucci, the polarization of America has basically transferred to the dating pool. "We are in a society where you can only date or be with people that think like you," he said. The only other option is one he says his friends have used: lie about who they voted for.—AFP



PHOTO FEATURE

Visitors browse at a bookstore decorated with mirrors and backlit shelves to attract customers in Guiyang in China's southwestern Guizhou province. — AFP photos



Classifieds

Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Kuwait Times
Now you can browse
www.kuwaittimes.net
e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

STATE OF KUWAIT
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 6819 - 6817
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Partly cloudy to cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times south easterly wind, with speed of 15 - 45 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times with a chance for rising dust.

BY NIGHT: Cloudy to partly cloudy with moderate to fresh south easterly wind, with speed of 20 - 50 km/h with a chance for thunder rain with a chance for rising dust.

WEATHER WATCH			Thunder Rain	
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.	SFC. CHART 05/11/2018 0000 UTC	
KUWAIT CITY	27 °C	22 °C		
KUWAIT AIRPORT	28 °C	18 °C		
ABDALY	27 °C	16 °C		
BUBYAN	*** °C	*** °C		
JAHRA	27 °C	18 °C		
FAILAKA ISLAND	28 °C	22 °C		
SALMIYAH	26 °C	23 °C		
AHMADI	28 °C	23 °C		
NUWAISIB	31 °C	21 °C		
WAFRA	29 °C	18 °C		
SALMY	28 °C	16 °C		

4 DAYS FORECAST

DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Tuesday	11/06	Partly cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times with a chance for rising dust	27 °C	20 °C	SE-NW	15 - 45 km/h
Wednesday	11/07	Partly cloudy with a chance for scattered rain	27 °C	19 °C	NE-SE	10 - 32 km/h
Thursday	11/08	Partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times with a chance for rising dust	26 °C	18 °C	NE-SE	15 - 45 km/h
Friday	11/09	Partly cloudy with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times	26 °C	17 °C	NE	12 - 40 km/h

PRAYER TIMES

Fajr	04:43
Sunrise	06:04
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:37
Sunset	16:59
Isha	18:18

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT

MAX. Temp.	25 °C
MIN. Temp.	17 °C
MAX. RH	98 %
MIN. RH	51 %
MAX. Wind	N 57 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	10.1mm

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401

URGENTLY REQUIRED
FOR AN INDUSTRIAL CATERING COMPANY
1. COOKS: INDIAN
2. COOKS: EGYPTIAN
Minimum 3 years experience required for both categories and with Transferable Res.
Forward Resume to:
E-mail: staffrequest123@gmail.com
Tel: +965 97215449

ACCOMMODATION

Sharing accommodation available for decent Christian bachelor / single lady in Salmiya, Block-10, Street-10 (near Garden).
Contact: 51177342 (C 5430) 5-11-2018

Sharing accommodation available for decent Christian bachelor / single lady in Salmiya, Block-10, Street-10 (near Garden).
Contact: 51177342 (C 5430) 5-11-2018

Airlines

Kuwait Airways	171
Jazeera Airways	177
Wataniya Airways	22 066 536
Turkish Airlines	1884918
American Airlines	22087425
	22087426
Jet Airways	22924455
FlyDubai	22414400
Qatar Airways	22423888
KLM	22425747
Royal Jordanian	22418064/5/6
British Airways	22425635
Air France	22430224
Emirates	22921555
Air India	22438184
Sri Lanka Airlines	22424444
Egypt Air	22421578
Swiss Air	22421516
Saudia	22426306
Middle East Airlines	22423073
Lufthansa	22422493
PIA	22421044
Bangladesh Airlines	22452977/8
Indian Airlines	22456700



Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 6/11/2018				Departure Flights on Tuesday 6/11/2018			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
JZR	254	Amman	00:05	QTR	8511	Doha	13:55
JZR	406	Kochi	00:10	KAC	774	Riyadh	14:00
JAI	572	Mumbai	00:15	KAC	059	Dubai	14:20
JZR	734	Cairo	00:50	GFA	672	Dubai	14:25
THY	772	Istanbul	00:50	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:45
JZR	722	Alexandria	00:55	KAC	618	Doha	14:50
PGT	858	Istanbul	00:55	KAC	692	Muscat	14:55
KAC	102	London	01:20	KNE	529	Jeddah	15:05
DLH	625	Dammam	01:25	KAC	788	Jeddah	15:10
RJA	642	Amman	01:35	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:15
UAE	853	Dubai	01:45	FEQ	441	Asyut	15:25
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	JZR	222	Riyadh	15:30
IGO	1757	Kochi	01:55	KAC	562	Amman	15:35
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	OMA	645	Muscat	15:35
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:30	KAC	304	Mumbai	15:40
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
QTR	1086	Doha	02:40	JZR	732	Cairo	15:50
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:55	JZR	152	Mashhad	16:00
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	SYR	341	Damascus	16:00
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC	118	New York	16:05
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	ABY	127	Sharjah	16:05
KAC	414	Bangkok	04:00	KAC	516	Tehran	16:20
QTR	1076	Doha	04:00	JZR	212	Jeddah	16:25
LMU	5510	Cairo	04:00	KAC	502	Beirut	16:30
IGO	1751	Chennai	04:10	KAC	541	Cairo	16:30
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	QTR	1072	Doha	16:35
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:30	FDB	051	Dubai	16:40
KAC	1544	Cairo	05:00	JZR	612	Tbilisi	16:45
FDB	069	Dubai	05:00	JZR	114	Doha	17:10
KAC	382	Delhi	05:05	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
JZR	404	Hyderabad	05:10	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
THY	770	Istanbul	05:10	JZR	214	Jeddah	17:45
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20	UAE	875	Dubai	18:00
JZR	112	Doha	05:25	FDB	063	Dubai	18:15
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	05:30	JZR	124	Dubai	18:20
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	QTR	1080	Doha	18:30
JZR	402	Mumbai	06:05	MSR	2620	Cairo	18:30
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:10	KAC	744	Dammam	19:00
KAC	362	Colombo	06:10	RJA	640	Amman	19:00
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:10	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:25
THY	6376	Istanbul	06:30	RBG	555	Alexandria	19:25
KAC	678	Dubai	06:55	NIA	0161	Cairo	19:30
BAW	157	London	07:05	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:30
KAC	204	Lahore	07:10	KAC	616	Bahrain	19:30
JZR	708	Luxor	07:15	KAC	156	Istanbul	19:30
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:35	KAC	776	Riyadh	19:50
KAC	358	Kochi	07:35	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50
FEQ	241	Alexandria	07:40	JZR	106	Bahrain	20:00
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	166	Rome	20:10
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	KAC	620	Doha	20:15
JZR	102	Bahrain	08:25	OMA	647	Muscat	20:20
UAE	855	Dubai	08:35	KAC	546	Cairo	20:30
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	KAC	674	Dubai	20:35
IRA	675	Lar	09:40	DLH	624	Frankfurt	20:45
IGO	1753	Ahmedabad	09:40	ICV	675	Luxembourg	21:15
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	172	Frankfurt	21:15
QTR	1070	Doha	09:45	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:20
IAW	157A	Al Najaf	10:00	ALK	229	Colombo	21:20
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	MEA	402	Beirut	21:20
IRC	6507	Shiraz	10:30	KAC	168	Paris	21:30
KAC	624	Doha	10:40	UAE	859	Dubai	21:35
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	THY	6476	Istanbul	21:40
JZR	116	Doha	11:10	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45
JZR	122	Dubai	11:20	KLM	445	Amsterdam	21:50
QTR	1074	Doha	11:35	KAC	564	Amman	21:55
JZR	216	Jeddah	11:45	AZQ	565	Baku	22:00
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	JAI	574	Mumbai	22:00
KAC	614	Bahrain	12:25	QTR	1082	Doha	22:05
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:15
MSC	411	Asyut	12:30	AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25
JZR	714	Sohag	12:35	RBG	213	Sohag	22:30
JZR	142	Al Najaf	12:50	KAC	786	Jeddah	22:45
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	BBC	043	Dhaka	23:00
MSR	610	Cairo	13:10	JZR	128	Riyadh	23:15
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:15	MSC	405	Sohag	23:30
QTR	1078	Doha	13:35	FDB	071	Dubai	23:45
AZQ	513	Riyadh	11:00				
IAW	158A	Al Najaf	11:00				
IRC	6508	Shiraz	11:20				
GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25				
KAC	515	Tehran	12:00				
JZR	213	Jeddah	12:00				
JZR	221	Riyadh	12:00				
JZR	405	Kochi	12:45				
MEA	405	Beirut	12:55				
QTR	1075	Doha	13:00				
MSC	412	Asyut	13:30				
SAW	702	Damascus	13:30				
KAC	545	Cairo	13:30				
JZR	113	Doha	13:30				
JZR	123	Dubai	13:40				
MSR	611	Cairo	14:10				
UAE	872	Dubai	14:15				
AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:15				
QTR	1079	Doha	15:00				
FDB	060	Dubai	15:10				
QTR	8512	Doha	15:25				
GFA	222	Bahrain	15:25				
KAC	673	Dubai	15:40				
SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45				
KAC	775	Riyadh</					

Austrian IAEA labs key to future of Iran nuclear deal

SEIBERSDORF, Austria: As US President Donald Trump re-imposes sweeping sanctions on Iran yesterday, all eyes are again on the precarious future of a landmark international deal meant to curb Tehran's nuclear program. One place that could feel the ramifications of Trump's decision is an unassuming lab complex near the Austrian town of Seibersdorf - at first sight a world away from geopolitical maneuvering over Tehran's nuclear program.

But the site houses the International Atomic Energy Agency's laboratories, which are key to verifying Iran's compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), signed in 2015 between Iran and world powers. It's in these labs that the IAEA's scientists carry out their painstaking work of analysing the samples collected by their inspectors in the field.

There are two main sets of laboratories: One for testing declared nuclear materials and another to process "environmental" samples designed to pick up clues to possible undeclared nuclear activity. For the former, samples are taken from containers of nuclear material up to hundreds of kilograms in weight. "By the time we go to the measurement lab, they'll be measuring millionths of a gram," explains Steve Balsley, head of the Nuclear Materials Laboratory.

The nuclear materials lab deals with around 500 samples a year but has the capacity to handle much more than that at busier periods. The second main type of testing is "environmental" sampling, which consists of intricate analysis of "swipes" resembling small square cloths. This gives clues as to the kinds of nuclear activities that have been carried out at a given location. The analysis can for example tease out traces of different sorts of uranium detected at a site, to see if isotopes are present which suggest enrichment activity over and above what a country has declared.

Such work could be key to verifying a deal like the JCPOA, where limits on enrichment activity are central to ensuring the absence of a military nuclear program. However, to avoid bias, samples are given random num-

bers so that scientists don't know where they come from.

Painstaking process

For both kinds of analysis, spikes in workload can occur when inspectors gain access to a facility and need to establish a "baseline" of information about activity at that site. Such intensive work would probably be necessary if the IAEA were to play a role in verifying any future deal on North Korea's nuclear program, as so much time has elapsed since its inspectors were expelled from the country in 2009. Depending on how much detail is needed in the result, a single "swipe" can take weeks to analyze and cost several thousand euros in labor and chemicals.

The machines used for the most detailed work - able for example to analyze a particle of plutonium 50 times smaller than the diameter of a human hair - cost several million euros. Moreover, there is only a limited pool of staff worldwide who would have the required knowledge to operate them, meaning vacancies are not always easy to fill.

Stephan Vogt, head of the Environmental Sample Laboratory, says that given the scientists work from such tiny amounts of source material, "we spend about 60-70 percent of our time not doing anything else than engaging in quality assurance and quality control, just to make sure the numbers we produce are defensible". But he is confident that the painstaking processes will always pick up nuclear activity. "Any nuclear process you pursue will leave traces in the environment of the materials that you have handled inside the facility," he says.

The environmental sampling lab frequently runs at capacity but the IAEA can also call on a network of partners in several other countries to which it can send samples for analysis. But no matter how impressive the facilities and manpower that the IAEA has at its disposal, when it comes to the survival of an agreement like the JCPOA, the technical results will ultimately matter less than the politics. — AFP



SEIBERSDORF, Austria: A scientist works at the laboratories of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in this June 8, 2018 photo. — AFP

Iraqi hotel a challenge for...

Continued from Page 1

But since Ramadi was retaken by Iraqi authorities in 2016, reconstruction, new housing and commercial projects have sprung up, attracting entrepreneurs from across Iraq. Louai Rafe, an Iraqi businessman, was happy to have found Rose Plaza. He thought he could finish some administrative work in Anbar and return the same day to the capital Baghdad, 100 km away. But the work took longer than he expected and he decided to book into the new hotel. "Whenever I came here, I used to sleep at a friend's house, and I was embarrassed to bother him again," said Rafe. "This hotel is really welcome, it makes everyone's life easier."

But in Anbar, life is governed by the region's tribes and their ancestral customs. A sense of hospitality is paramount, with any outsiders being invited to eat a hearty meal and stay overnight in a resident's home. Houses are even built with such a welcome in mind, as the diwaniya

or reception hall must be the largest and most impressive room. This remains true even if it means cutting down on space for the family. The only previous attempt to open a hotel in Ramadi was a failure, evident from the unfinished and abandoned building in the city center.

The Turkish firm behind the hotel was forced to abandon the project in 2014, when IS overran the city. Residents jest that even the militants stayed away from the building. But some Anbar residents are keen to take advantage of the new hotel, such as 28-year-old Mohammed Ahmed who has reserved a room for his honeymoon. "I didn't have anywhere to go and the hotel is a good alternative," said Ahmed, his beard neatly trimmed and wearing a crisp white shirt. The owner also aims to attract business clients, holding out hope to welcome delegates for reconstruction conferences and summits on Iraq's post-IS future.

But for some residents, the arrival of the hotel remains a threat to the region's customs. "These hotels never existed in the traditions of our fathers and our grandfathers," said Sheikh Ibrahim Khalil Al-Hamed, a 52-year-old tribal dignitary. Hamed, wearing a white bedouin scarf and black robe, said the tribes have always been known for welcoming visitors. "These hotels destroy our reputation," he said. — AFP

The International Monetary Fund forecasts that US sanctions will cause Iran's economy to contract 1.5 percent this year and 3.6 percent next year - pain that Trump has boasted about as he touts his record ahead of today's congressional elections. Iran's economy was already suffering major structural problems - including widespread corruption, weak investment and a banking sector laden with toxic assets - before Trump walked out of the deal. Rouhani's plan since his election in 2013 was to boost the economy by rebuilding ties with the world and attracting billions of dollars in foreign investment - a strategy that now looks in tatters.

The United States issued eight waivers to its ban on buying Iranian oil - to China, India, Italy, Greece, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Turkey. Pompeo said that the eight had demonstrated that they were reducing purchases of Iranian oil and that the United States recognized special circumstances, as well as the need not to disrupt energy markets. One notable exemption was Iraq. Had it been granted a waiver, analysts say it would have been easier for Iran to mix its crude with production from its neighbor to sell on international markets.

The other parties to the nuclear deal - Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia - have vehemently opposed the US move and vowed to keep alive the accord, technically known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). "We will do everything necessary in the interests of preserving and expanding international trade, economic and financial cooperation with Iran despite US sanctions," said Russia's foreign ministry.

The only support for the US position has come from Iran's regional rivals, notably Saudi Arabia and Israel, whose prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, hailed the start of sanctions as "a historic day." Foreign companies and banks are largely unwilling to make enemies of the US Treasury, and most international firms that set up in Iran after the 2015 deal have been forced to leave, including France's Total, Peugeot and Renault, and Germany's Siemens.

"Unfortunately, we were treated dishonorably by both the American and Iranian governments," said Fereshteh Safarnezhad, a 43-year-old teacher, on the streets of Tehran. "The Americans never really committed to the deal and the Iranian government did not spend the cash it got from the deal on the people." The Iranian military launched two days of air defense drills yesterday across northern Iran, and state TV aired footage of surface-to-air missiles and air defense systems. Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards Corps are among the forces participating. — Agencies

Petitions, protests as Indian farmers moved to make way for statues

BANGKOK: Thousands of farmers and indigenous people are being pushed from their homes and losing their livelihoods as India races to build massive statues to lure tourists and appease voters, campaigners said. In a ceremony featuring fireworks and fighter jets, Prime Minister Narendra Modi last week inaugurated the world's tallest statue, of independence hero Vallabhbhai Patel, which towers nearly twice the height of New York's Statue of Liberty.

The 182-m steel and bronze "Statue of Unity" was built on the Narmada river in Modi's home state of Gujarat at a cost of about \$400 million. Residents of nearby villages handed a petition to state officials yesterday demanding a halt to further development at the site, according to Rohit Prajapati, an activist who said they are also considering legal action. "This should be a memorial of violence and violation, to sensitize us to the impact on farmers and indigenous people," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Hundreds of indigenous activists and farmers have held protests at the site in the town of Kevadia, saying the statue is a wasteful extravagance in the midst of poverty, and that those displaced did not

receive enough compensation. "This land, river, forest that your avatar is going to stand on, belongs to Adivasis," activist Medha Patkar wrote in a symbolic letter to Patel, who died in 1950, referring to indigenous people. "They are being cheated and evicted out of their land for tourism," she said in the letter published in several newspapers.

The Gujarat government said 185 families were relocated, and that they had received adequate compensation. The statue is located just a few miles downstream from the Sardar Sarovar Dam, which has been mired in controversy since it was conceived in the 1960s, with protracted battles over water sharing, evictions and compensation. The dam has displaced 320,000 people and disrupted the lives of tens of thousands more, according to rights group Narmada Bachao Andolan (Save Narmada Campaign).

Thousands have still not been compensated, it has said. "These are people who are already suffering from the dam's impact, and now they will suffer even more because of the statue. How is this a public purpose?" said Prajapati, referring to the condition under which the state acquires private land. As India builds increasingly ambitious projects, analysts say the definition of what constitutes public purpose needs revisiting.

Meanwhile, work is due to begin on a bigger statue of a Hindu king off the coast of Mumbai, which fishermen say will disrupt their catch and affect their livelihood. The 212-metre tall memorial of Shivaji is scheduled to be unveiled in two years. The chief minister of Uttar Pradesh state is expected to announce this week plans for another tall statue - of the Hindu god Ram. — Reuters

Iran slams 'bullying' as...

Continued from Page 1

relentless in exerting pressure on the regime," Pompeo said. He said the sanctions - which took effect on the 39th anniversary of Iranian zealots' seizure of the US embassy following the ouster of the pro-US shah - intended to "starve the Iranian regime of the funds it uses to fund violent activity throughout the Middle East and around the world".

UN inspectors say Iran is abiding by an agreement reached with Trump's predecessor Barack Obama to draw down its nuclear program. That deal was backed by European powers, Russia and China and sealed by a UN Security Council resolution. "I announce that we will proudly bypass your illegal, unjust sanctions because it's against international regulations," Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said in a televised speech as the sanctions took effect. "We are in a situation of economic war, confronting a bullying power. I don't think that in the history of America, someone has entered the White House who is so against law and international conventions," he added.

In one of Tehran's bazaars, there was anxiety over the future. "The shadow of the sanctions has already affected the economy in a disastrous way, people's purchasing power has plunged," said Ehsan Attar in his herbal remedy shop. Rouhani said four countries had approached him during his visit to New York for the UN General Assembly in September, offering to mediate with the US but he turned them down. "There is no need for mediation. There is no need for all these messages. Act on your commitments, and we will sit and talk," he said.

But Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, in an interview published yesterday with USA Today, said Iran would consider fresh diplomacy if there were a "different approach" by Washington. The latest tranche of US sanctions aims to significantly cut Iran's oil exports - which have already fallen by up to one million barrels a day since May - and cut off its banks from international finance. The Belgian-based SWIFT banking network, the backbone for international monetary transfers, said yesterday it had suspended several Iranian banks from its service.

Polls poised for verdict...

Continued from Page 1

But in a hard-driving series of rallies around the country Trump has put himself at the center of every issue. With a characteristic mix of folksiness, bombast and sometimes cruel humor, he says voters must choose between his stewardship of a booming economy and strong focus on security and what he claims would be the Democrats' hard-left policies. The bid to make it all about Trump is a gamble, as is his shift from touting economic successes to a bitter - critics say racist - narrative claiming that the country is under attack from illegal immigration.

In the run-up to today's vote Trump has sent thousands of soldiers to the Mexican border, suggested that illegal immigrants who throw stones could be shot, and tried to persuade Americans that the Democrats would turn the country into a crime-and-drugs black hole. "They want to impose socialism on our country. And they want to erase America's borders," Trump told a raucous rally in Chattanooga, Tennessee late Sunday. That worked for Trump in his own shock 2016 election victory but has turned off swaths of Americans, giving Democrats confidence that they could capture at least the lower house of Congress.

According to polls, the Republicans are comfortably on track to retain the Senate. But with polls often too close for comfort and turnout being the crucial unknown factor, both parties are braced for potential surprises. In traditionally Republican Texas, popular Democrat Beto O'Rourke is trying to dethrone Senator Ted Cruz, while Republican Pete Stauber might flip a House Democratic stronghold in Minnesota. In Florida and Georgia, Democrats are aiming to become the states' first African American governors.

The Democrats rolled out their biggest gun in the final days of the campaign: Former president Barack Obama, who on Sunday made a last-ditch appeal for an endangered Senate Democrat in Indiana. Laying into the tangled legal scandals enveloping the Trump administration - especially the possible collusion between his presidential campaign and Russian operatives - Obama

scoffed: "They've racked up enough indictments to fill a football team." And describing the election as even more consequential than his own historic 2008 victory as the first non-white president, Obama said more than politics is at stake. "The character of our country's on the ballot," he said.

The party of a first-term president tends to lose congressional seats in his first midterm. But a healthy economy favors the incumbent, so Trump may yet defy the historical pattern. A new Washington Post-ABC News poll suggested that while Democrats retain an edge in the House, Republicans could take advantage of rosy economic news and the focus on border security. It found registered voters preferred Democratic candidates for the House over Republicans by 50 percent to 43 percent, but that was down from a 14-point advantage in August. A second poll, by NBC and The Wall Street Journal, also showed Democrats holding the same seven-point advantage.

In what could be a warning for Republicans, the NBC poll reported college-educated white women - the so-called suburban moms - favor Democrats by a substantial 61 percent to 33 percent. In the end, polls mean nothing if people don't actually vote, so even stormy weather forecast for today in much of the east of the country could end up having an impact. "It's all about turnout," Democratic Senator Chris Van Hollen told Fox News Sunday.

Perhaps the biggest wild card is how voters will react to the increasingly extreme rhetoric and politically inspired violence in the last two weeks of the campaign. Trump has repeatedly ratcheted up his warnings about Democrats wanting to encourage the immigration of violent criminals and rapists. In speeches, he has transformed a dwindling group of a few thousand impoverished Central Americans trying to walk to the United States - though still hundreds of miles away - into a ferocious threat. "We're not letting these people invade our country," Trump says.

This may work with Trump's ultra-loyal base. However, misgivings rose over the president's rhetoric after a Florida man and ardent Trump supporter was charged with sending homemade bombs to more than a dozen senior Democrats and other high profile opponents. Just after, a man allegedly inspired by Trump's anti-immigrant stance walked into a Pittsburgh synagogue and shot 11 worshippers dead. — AFP

Sports

Djokovic top of the world after completing remarkable turnaround

Novak is just three behind Nadal's total of 17 Grand Slams

PARIS: Novak Djokovic's return to the world number one spot, just five months after slumping to his lowest ranking in 12 years, leaves little doubt that he is one of the sport's greats. The Serb is back on the top of the pile for the first time in two years, at the end of a roller-coaster season for the 14-time major winner.

Djokovic, 31, underwent elbow surgery in January and slipped to 22nd in the world after a depressing quarter-final exit at Roland Garros in June, which left him briefly threatening to skip Wimbledon. But he regrouped, romped to a fourth Wimbledon title the following month, a 32nd Masters in Cincinnati and then a third triumph at the US Open in September.

Despite his loss in the final of the Paris Masters to Karen Khachanov on Sunday—which ended a 22-match win streak—his record since the start of Wimbledon stands at 31-2. "Reflecting on what I've been through in the last year, it's quite a phenomenal achievement," said Djokovic, who has knocked Rafael Nadal from the world top spot. "I'm very, very happy and proud about it. Five months ago, it was highly improbable considering my ranking and the way I played and felt on the court."

'HE HAS EVERYTHING'

Djokovic is now just three behind Nadal's total of 17 Grand Slams and six shy of Roger Federer's record of 20. But he has time on his side—Federer has already celebrated his 37th birthday while injury-plagued Nadal is 32. Furthermore, Djokovic enjoys a lifetime 25-22 record over Federer and 27-25 against Nadal. "Novak has everything to make records in this sport," said Argentina's Juan Martin del Potro after losing to Djokovic in the US Open final. Djokovic's ability to thrive amongst the greats has never been in doubt, but the size of his heart often led to questions in his early

days. At Wimbledon in 2007, he retired with a back injury in the third set of his semi-final against Nadal. He also quit at the 2006 and 2007 French Opens at the third round and quarter-final stages respectively, while at the 2009 Australian Open, where he was defending champion, he pulled out of his quarter-final with Andy Roddick citing heat exhaustion.

But nobody could question his courage at the 2012 Australian Open, when he beat Nadal in the longest Grand Slam final of all time, a draining 5hr 53min epic. Djokovic captured the first of his majors in Melbourne in 2008, but it was three years before he added his second. After leading Serbia to a maiden Davis Cup in 2010, he raced through the first half of 2011, building up a 48-1 winning run. Only a semi-final defeat at the French Open prevented him from becoming just the third man to capture a calendar Grand Slam. He finished 2011 with a 70-6 win-loss record, a haul of 10 tournament victories and the year-end number one spot for the first time.

PEOPLE'S CHAMPION?

Back-to-back Australian Opens followed in 2012 and 2013, although three heart-breaking final defeats kept the French Open frustratingly out of reach until 2016, when his breakthrough win at Roland Garros allowed him to complete his career Slam.

In Paris that year, he also became the first player to break through the \$100 million (87.8 million euro) prize money barrier. Djokovic has also not been afraid to take chances and innovate his game, bringing in Boris Becker as part of his coaching team for the start of the 2014 season, although he has since reunited with long-time mentor Marian Vajda.

Off court, Djokovic married long-time girlfriend Jelena Ristic in July 2014. They have two children, a son



PARIS: File photo shows Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns the ball to Russia's Karen Khachanov during their men's singles final tennis match on day seven of the ATP World Tour Masters 1000 - Rolex Paris Masters - indoor tennis tournament at The AccorHotels Arena in Paris. — AFP

Stefan and daughter Tara. However, despite his achievements, Djokovic appears doomed never to be held in the same warm esteem as Federer and Nadal.

There are those who see something a little more calculating in the Djokovic make-up. He was castigated during the 2015 French Open semi-finals for taking an eight-minute medical time-out after dropping the third set to Andy Murray, and at Indian Wells the next year he was roundly criticised for suggesting that men should "fight" to get more prize money than women.

"The stats are showing that we have much more spectators on the men's tennis matches," he said. At Wimbledon this year, he hit out at some Centre Court fans for a perceived lack of respect while schedulers also felt his ire for exiling him to Court Two for a third round match.

Despite the doubts, the plaudits were generous yesterday. "What Novak has achieved this season has to go down as one of the great sporting comebacks," said ATP president Chris Kermode. — AFP



China reigns supreme at Asian Shotgun and Airgun championships

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: China reigned supreme during the first day of competition of the 8th Asian Shotgun and 11th Airgun championships held at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex until November 11.

China was dominant in the Airgun category as shooters won four gold, one silver and two bronze medals. The Chinese won the first three places in the 10m rifle for men, as world and Asian champion Haoaran Yang won gold while Yifei Cao won silver and the bronze went to Yukun Liu, who was the youth champion for 2017, and Asia in 2016 and 2017.

Yang is considered among one of the topped ranked shooters internationally as he won the world championship gold in 2014 and 2018, and Jakarta Asian Games in 2018. In the men's teams event China won first place, followed by Kazakhstan and Bahrain was third. The Chinese women were outstanding in the 10 meters competition, as world cup 2018 champion Mingyang Wu won gold, while her compatriot Ruozhu Zhao won bronze, as the silver

medal went to Singapore. In the teams event China took gold followed by Singapore then Taiwan. Bahrain was fourth and Kuwait Fifth. Meanwhile, the general assembly of Asian Shooting Confederation decided during its meeting Sunday to review the report of the organizing committee of the Asian Championship to be held in Qatar in 2019, and approved the decision of ASC President to hold the next assembly in Kuwait in 2020.

Head of the Iraqi delegation Zahed Nouri thanked officials of Kuwait Shooting Sport and Honorary President Sheikh Salman who is considered the main supporter of Iraq shooting. He said Iraq is always keen to attend any championship held in Kuwait, due to the strong competition and the professional organization known by the Kuwait Shooting Sport Club.

Nouri said the current championship is witnessing strong competition between shooters of Asia in addition to important activities being held at the sidelines such as general assembly meetings during which it was agreed on the persons who will be nominated to represent the continent at the ISSF. Head of the Shotgun Referees



Committee Hamad Aql Al-Ruwaisan said preparations for the championship were through several refresher courses for referees in Kuwait. He said the higher organizing committee is always keen to enhance the level of referees before the start of tournaments hosted by Kuwait.

Chinese shooter Haoran Yang appreciated the efforts of his coach and colleagues after winning the gold medal in the 10m air rifle. He said the gold medal is the result of team work and extra efforts by all.

Bahrain's shooter Hassan Abdeghaffar dedicated the bronze medal he won to the Bahrain people, adding he was determined to get a medal and this is what happened.

NBK sponsors Battle of the East Fitness Festival



KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) sponsored Battle of the East Fitness Festival. The festival took place at the Green Island-Gulf Road. The sponsorship came in line with NBK's commitment to support youths' health. It aimed to spread physical awareness and attract youth to participate in sporting events.

NBK was honored at the end of the festival for its support and contribution. On this occasion, NBK Public Relations Assistant General Manager, Manal Al Mattar,

stressed on the importance of supporting youth and their health, "the purpose of this event was to increase fitness awareness for all Kuwait citizens," she said.

NBK's booth hosted games and various sports challenges and rewarded winners with valuable prizes. The Battle of the East Fitness Festival included sports challenges that attracted more than 1500 spectators and more than 600 professional athletes. The competitions in this festival comprised a range of physical challenges

that depended on the strength, flexibility and endurance. All of which contributed to raise the spirit of positive competition among student circles.

NBK has always considered supporting youth an essential part of its social and philanthropic outreach which comes in line with the bank's commitment to encourage a merit-based system in health, education and environment that promotes the best and the brightest the country has to offer.



Mayweather to face baby-faced Japan kickboxer Nasukawa

TOKYO: Boxing superstar Floyd Mayweather Jr said yesterday he will come out of retirement to fight a Japanese kickboxer half his age, Tenshin Nasukawa, on New Year's Eve in Saitama. The 41-year-old unbeaten American, who won world titles in five different weight divisions and was considered the best pound-for-pound boxer in the sport, out-boxed Irish mixed martial arts fighter Conor McGregor in his last fight in August 2017.

That victory improved his boxing record to a perfect 50-0, but the format or rules for his meeting with the baby-faced Nasukawa were not specified by the Japanese mixed martial arts promoters RIZIN.

Mayweather posted a teaser photo on his Instagram feed at the weekend, showing him wearing kickboxing gloves. "I want to give the people what they want—blood, sweat and tears," Mayweather told a news conference in Tokyo after reportedly flying into Japan on his private jet.

"It's always been a goal of mine to go outside out of the US and display my talent. The world has never seen Mayweather compete live in (Japan)," he added, promoting the cross-code bout as an expansion of his businesses to the Far East.

"I want to continue to build my relationship with Money Team Tokyo. We've been making some huge fights happen in the US, but we look forward to taking the Mayweather Promotions banner and the TMT banner worldwide."

Nasukawa, who is described in the press release as "perhaps the best combat sports prospect (Japan) has ever seen", boasts a 27-0 record but has never competed as a professional boxer.

The 20-year-old with a bleached-blond quiff called it an "easy decision" to accept the offer to face Mayweather in Saitama, north of Tokyo. "It was a surprise offer but I accepted without hesitation," said Nasukawa.

"I don't care what the rules are. I want to be the man who changes history. I'll do that with these fists, with one punch—just watch." Mayweather insisted Nasukawa would be no pushover. "He's young and he's undefeated so it's obvious he's doing something right," he said.

"This kid right here is an unbelievable talent, he looks like a gym rat," added Mayweather. "He's very special, he's fast, he's strong. I'm older now and when it comes to experience, I have it on my side. He has youth on his side and he's going to bring a lot of excitement."

Mayweather, who stopped McGregor in the 10th round last year after coming out of retirement for a \$275 million pay day, had been flirting with the idea of a rematch with the Irishman or facing McGregor's recent MMA conqueror, the fearsome Russian Khabib Nurmagomedov.

"I've been blessed to be in the sport a long time and to make over a billion dollars in the sport," added Mayweather. "But this particular bout is special as far as giving people something they've never seen before. I'm not really worried about the weight class or rules—it's about me displaying my skills against another skilful fighter. I just want to entertain." — AFP

Sports

Taijul Islam's 11 wicket-haul leads Bangladesh fightback

Hosts still need a record chase to win in Sylhet

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the first Test between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium in Sylhet yesterday:

Zimbabwe 1st innings 282 (S. Williams 88, H.Masakadza 52; Taijul Islam 6-108)

Bangladesh 1st innings 143 (Ariful Haque 41 not out; T. Chatara 3-19; S. Raza 3-35)

Zimbabwe 2nd innings (overnight 0-1)

H.Masakadza lbw b Mehidy	48
B. Chari b Mehidy	4
B. Taylor c Imrul. B. Taijul	24
S. Williams b Taijul	20
S. Raza b Taijul	25
P. Moor c Liton b Taijul	0
R. Chakabva c Mahmudullah b Nazmul	20
W. Masakadza lbw b Mehidy	17
B. Mavuta c Ariful B Nazmul	6
K. Jarvis not out	1
T. Chatara lbw b Taijul	8
Extra (b4, lb4)	8
Total (all out, 65.4 overs)	181
Fall of wickets: 1-19 (Chari), 2-47 (Taylor), 3-101 (Masakadza), 4-121 (Williams), 5-121 (Moor), 6-130 (Raza), 7-165 (W. Masakadza), 8-172 (Chakabva), 9-173 (Mavuta), 10-181 (Chatara)	
Bowling: Taijul 28.4-8-62-5, Nazmul 6-1-27-2, Jayed 7-1-25-0, Mehedi 19-7-48-3, Mahmudullah 4-1-7-0, Mominul 1-0-4-0.	

Bangladesh 2nd innings (target 321)

Liton Das not out	14
Imrul Kayes not out	12
Extras	0
Total (no loss, 10.1 overs)	26
To bat: Nazmul Hossain, Mominul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah Riyad, Ariful Haque, Mehidy Hasan, Taijul Islam, Nazmul Islam, Abu Jayed	
Bowling: Jarvis 5-2-11-0, Chatara 5-1-15-0, Raza 0-1-0-0-0	

SYLHET: Taijul Islam claimed 11 wickets to lead Bangladesh's fightback in the first Test against Zimbabwe yesterday, but the hosts still need a record chase to win in Sylhet. Bangladesh dismissed Zimbabwe for 181 in their second innings with Taijul returning impressive bowling figures of 5-62.

Taijul's effort boosted Bangladesh after they were bowled out cheaply for just 143 in response to the tourists' first innings haul of 282 runs.

The hosts were 26-0 in their chase of 321 when bad light stopped play on day three at the Sylhet International Stadium.

Opener Liton Das and Imrul Kayes remained unbeaten on 14 and 12 respectively as Bangladesh head into day four with another 295 runs needed to re-write the record books.

No team has ever had to chase so many runs to win a Test match in Bangladesh. Bangladesh's highest successful chase at home is 101 against Zimbabwe in 2014.

Zimbabwe though were on their way to a bigger lead after reaching 165-6 at tea, but spinners made a quick work to pick the remaining four wickets in just 3.4 overs after the break.

Off-spinner Mehidy Hasan and left-arm spinner Nazmul Islam complemented Taijul with 3-48 and 2-27 respectively. Taijul, who also claimed 6-108 in the first innings, fittingly claimed the final Zimbabwe wicket when he trapped Tendai Chatara leg-before.

Bangladesh had to wait until the ninth over of the day for their first breakthrough when off-spinner Mehidy Hasan bowled Brian Chari for nine.

Chari was earlier dropped by Nazmul Islam off Abu Jayed at backward point on one after he resumed Zimbabwe's innings on 0-1 with Masakadza.

Imrul took a stunning catch at mid-on as Taijul dis-



SYLHET: Zimbabwe's cricketer Wellington Masakadza (L) plays a shot as Bangladeshi cricketer Liton Das (R) tries to catch the ball during the third day of the first Test cricket match between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe in Sylhet yesterday. — AFP

missed Brendon Taylor for 24.

Masakadza and Sean Williams then batted with caution to deny Bangladesh further success in the opening session. Mehidy trapped Masakadza leg before for 48 after the break before Taijul took control of the innings.

He bowled Williams for 20 and then dismissed Peter Moor for a duck in the next ball. Raza, who made a quick 25 off 30 balls, was unable to survive long as Taijul spun one beautifully to uproot his middle stump and complete his maiden 10-wicket haul. — AFP

Chandimal looks to put England in a spin at Galle

GALLE: Skipper Dinesh Chandimal yesterday said Sri Lanka's spinners are ready to fire in the first Test against England in Galle as the hosts eye a winning farewell for the retiring Rangana Herath. Sri Lanka, who went down to the tourists 3-1 in the five one-day internationals and also lost a one-off Twenty20 match, are looking for redemption in the three-Test series starting Tuesday.

Spinners Dilruwan Perera and Akila Dananjaya are expected to partner Herath in his final international outing on a turning Galle track that has seen rain in the lead up to the match. "When you look at the Galle pitch, it's always turning and helpful to spinners," Chandimal told reporters.

"When we play in Sri Lanka, it's spinners who take charge. Then again, it's all about weather and the condition of the pitch." But England are also ready with their battery of spinners led by Moeen Ali, Jack Leach, Joe Denly and Adil Rashid will also be fighting for a place in the starting line-up.

Skipper Joe Root also admitted yesterday that spin would "play a huge part" but said the was ready for anything. "We've just got to adapt very well, very quickly and read the situation. "We've got a very balanced squad with plenty of different options... From that point of view I feel we'll be very well prepared for whatever surface is thrown at us." The match will also be England's first Test since stalwart Alastair Cook hung up his bat in September following the home side's 4-1 drubbing of India. "It will be my first Test match without playing with Alastair. It's a big loss in terms of experience and everything he brings to the squad and the team," said Root.

"Of course we miss him. But it's a great opportunity for someone else to make that spot their own, stand up and do something special for England." Keaton Jennings is expected to open alongside Rory Burns, who is set for his Test debut as Cook's replacement.

But the spotlight in Galle remains on the departing Herath, the most successful left-arm spinner in history, as he seeks a fairytale swansong. Herath made his debut at Galle in 1999, got a hat-trick there in 2016 and is one scalp away from a century of wickets at the picturesque venue.

Only two other bowlers have achieved this feat-patriot Muralitharan at Galle, Kandy and SSC Colombo, and England paceman James Anderson at Lord's. The 40-year-old Herath has taken 430 wickets in 92 Tests and is among the top 10 wicket-takers in five-day history.

"We have few things under the sleeve (for Herath). We don't want to reveal all because we want him to be surprised," said Chandimal. "The main thing is, if we can win this game and the series, that will be a really good farewell for him. That's what the team is looking forward to," he said. Root said his team also wants to do something for Herath as he hailed his "phenomenal longevity" in a career spanning 19 years. But Root warned his players against getting affected by the occasion. "I'm very aware of how skillful he is and how he'll try and get us out," said Root.

"Of course there'll be a lot of noise around him and it being his last game. "But we've got to play 11 Sri Lankan players who could all equally affect the game and that respect has to be there for the whole team." — AFP

Former Australia captain Taylor resigns from CA

MELBOURNE: Former Australia captain Mark Taylor resigned from Cricket Australia's (CA) board of directors yesterday, as the fallout from a scathing review into the governing body's culture claimed another victim. Taylor's resignation comes four days after board chairman David Peever stepped down, his position having become untenable in the wake of the Longstaff review, which was commissioned following the Cape Town ball-tampering scandal.

The 54-year-old Taylor, the board's longest-serving director, said he had been struggling to sleep soundly since the findings of the review were released a week ago. He was also fatigued after a tumultuous 18 months

in Australian cricket, featuring an acrimonious pay dispute with players last year and the ball-tampering crisis in South Africa in March.

"Over the last 13 years, but particularly the last 18 months, there's been a lot in this role as a director of Cricket Australia. And it's taken its toll on me," Taylor told a news conference. "Over the last two weeks, even more so. And I've got to the stage where I don't think I can give any more, I've lost the energy and I think it's time for someone to fill my shoes."

Taylor had been touted as a possible successor for Peever by Australian cricket doyens but ruled himself out of the role last week, citing media commitments with local broadcaster Nine Network.

He said he had struggled to repair relations between the players union and CA, poisoned during negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement and further strained by the Cape Town scandal, which led to suspensions for former captain Steve Smith and two other players. "I sit in sometimes an interesting position as a former player, board director and also a broadcaster," Taylor said. "It can be a very tricky position and often

very hard in trying to get the balance right in saying too much or saying not enough. Balancing those positions is tough and it takes it out of you." Taylor is the third member of the CA board to quit in the last six months, following Peever and former director Bob Every, who resigned in May over disagreements with Peever's leadership.

The board is currently chaired on an interim basis by Earl Eddings until CA decides on a permanent replacement. Taylor hoped he could be replaced by a former player and suggested there was a good opportunity for a woman to take his role on the male-dominated board.

The resignation continues the litany of changes at the top of Australian cricket, with Kevin Roberts having replaced long-serving CEO James Sutherland last month, new captains appointed to the nationals teams and a new head coach in Justin Langer.

The men's national teams have yet to recover from the ball-tampering scandal, with the test side losing two of their last three matches and the one-day side 17 of their last 19 following their defeat to South Africa in Perth on Sunday. — Reuters



AAW launches third INTERSPORT at the Avenues Phase 4

KUWAIT: Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Co. (AAW), a leading distributor and retailer of more than 100 international brands in different sectors in Kuwait, yesterday announced the launch of the third INTERSPORT store in Kuwait at the Avenues Phase 4 - Electra under a new concept, "INTERSPORT 2.0".

INTERSPORT's new 900 sqm store introduces a new concept to customers featuring major athletic footwear, apparel and accessories under various sports categories including running, training, football, racket sports, swimming, basketball, and much more to meet all athletic and sports enthusiast needs for various activities. The store offers products from international and well-known brands including Nike, Adidas, Puma, Reebok, Asics, New Balance, On, Energetics, Skechers, Technopro, Under Armour, Firefly, Pro Touch, McKINLEY.

In line with INTERSPORT's objective to encourage living a healthy lifestyle, the launch of the store was celebrated with an engaging opening event and team walk through The Avenues led by Deputy CEO at AAW Khaled F. Al Mutawa and Intersport CEO Victor Duran. Various activities and athletic games competitions then took place in-store under the presence of AAW Chairman and CEO Faisal Al Mutawa. During the event attendees were invited to test INTERSPORT's new "Safe Size" Device, including members and medalists from the Kuwait National Track and Field Team. The new device uses the latest 3D scanning technology to help customers find the right running shoe for their sporting needs.



Deputy CEO at AAW, Khaled F. Al Mutawa said: "Our decision to launch a third store in Kuwait comes in response to the increasing customer demand for sporting goods, and through the opening of INTERSPORT at The Avenues we are now able to provide an elevated shopping experience to our customers across different sports categories." CEO of Intersport International, Victor Duran said: "As part of our expansion plan and new innovative strategy to strengthen our presence across the world, we are proud to be here to celebrate the opening of INTERSPORT at The Avenues. The all-new concept is built to create an INTERSPORT store that is relevant and right for each marketplace, and we will continue to monitor its success to further build upon and develop the retail experiences and services we offer."

INTERSPORT first launched in Kuwait in 2016 at Al Murouj Sahara followed by Al Corniche Club. This new store is located in Phase 4 of The Avenues Gate 26 - Electra, and open Sunday to Wednesday from 10:00 am to 11:00 pm, and Thursday to Saturday from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Australia facing 'self-doubt' after latest collapse: Finch

PERTH: Skipper Aaron Finch admits self-doubt is creeping into Australia's batsmen after another woeful display against South Africa, but he insists "the wheel will turn". The home side slumped to a crushing six-wicket defeat with more than 20 overs to spare in the opening one-dayer in Perth on Sunday, dispelling any hope a corner might have been turned after a grim eight months since the ball-tampering scandal.

They have now crashed to 17 losses in their last 19 ODIs, including an unparalleled seven defeats in a row, with batting failures a feature for much of the year. "You'd say that guys are probably at times doubting themselves," Finch said. On Sunday they were reduced to 8-3 and 66-6 before Nathan Coulter-Nile (34) and Alex Carey (33) steered them to 152 all out, again exposing how much they are missing the banned Steve Smith and David Warner.

"When you're 8-3, you probably have to go and play a different style of one-day cricket than what you map out in your head about how you think the game will unfold. "When guys are not performing as well as they can do, there's always going to be a bit of doubt."

Outside of Carey, no one in the Australian top six scored more than 15, with flawed techniques and poor shot selection at fault on a lively Perth Stadium wicket against a world-class attack led by Dale Steyn and Kagiso Rabada.

With less than seven months until the start of the World Cup, Finch is adamant Australia's luck will change. "It will turn," he said. "The way we are training and preparing, the wheel will turn, and it will happen quickly." And he won an ally in Steyn, who came to their defence.

"I don't think they need to be too embarrassed by it," he said. "The conditions were tough. Throw another 30, 40 runs on there and it becomes quite a tricky chase."

"I think we outbowled them. I don't think they bowled as well as they potentially could have. That was the difference." Despite the return of Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins from injury, the Australian attack was lacklustre, in contrast to the fiery Proteas.

Finch bizarrely opted to open the bowling with Coulter-Nile instead of Starc alongside Josh Hazlewood. He was smashed for 16 in his first over before being removed. He said it was an experiment to try to snap their losing streak. — AFP

Sports

Giannis tallies second triple-double with 26 points for Bucks over Kings

Ibaka drops 34 as Raptors pound Lakers

MILWAUKEE: Giannis Antetokounmpo registered his second triple-double of the young season with 26 points, 15 rebounds and 11 assists on Sunday, helping the host Milwaukee Bucks get back on the winning track with a 144-109 victory over the Sacramento Kings. The Bucks used an 18-1 run in the first quarter to take command in their first game since losing Thursday at Boston, their first defeat after opening the season 7-0. Antetokounmpo, who had only one triple-double last season, hit eight of his 11 shots and nine of his 12 free throws. His other triple-double this season had come against Philadelphia last month. Justin Jackson had 22 points for the Kings, who had won five in a row and were looking to sweep a four-game trip that began with wins over Miami, Orlando and Atlanta.

Raptors 121, Lakers 107

Serge Ibaka scored a career-best 34 points and grabbed 10 rebounds as visiting Toronto defeated Los Angeles. Kyle Lowry added 21 points and matched his season best with 15 assists to set a club record of eight straight games with 10 or more assists. It was his seventh double-double this season. Kyle Kuzma had 24 points for the Lakers while LeBron James had 18 points, Brandon Ingram 16, Lonzo Ball 12 and Rajon Rondo 10.

Wizards 108, Knicks 95

John Wall scored 26 points, Bradley Beal added 22 and Washington Wizards beat New York in the nation's capital to snap a five-game losing streak. With the score tied at 86 early in the fourth quarter, the Wizards went on an extended 16-2 run that included seven points by Beal, who also blocked a Mitchell Robinson layup at the other end during that stretch. Dwight Howard had 10 points and 10 rebounds in his second game with the Wizards and Markieff Morris scored 16 points. Beal, who added eight rebounds, scored 11 points in the fourth quarter as the Wizards recorded

their first home win.

Suns 102, Grizzlies 100

Devin Booker scored 25 points, including two key jump shots late in the game, as Phoenix ended a seven-game losing streak with a win over visiting Memphis. Booker hit a 20-foot jump shot from the left wing with 1.7 seconds remaining over the Grizzlies' Garrett Temple to give the Suns the lead for good. He also hit an 18-foot jumper from near the top of the key to give Phoenix a 100-98 lead with 29 seconds remaining. Trevor Ariza scored 16 points and had nine rebounds for the Suns, and Mikal Bridges added 14 off the bench as the Suns won for the first time since defeating the Dallas Mavericks in their season opener.

Nets 122, 76ers 97

D'Angelo Russell scored 21 points and Caris LeVert added 20 points as Brooklyn pulled away in the third quarter to beat visiting Philadelphia, which committed 28 turnovers and remained winless on the road. Rondae Hollis-Jefferson added 21 points, while Jarrett Allen posted a double-double with 15 and 10 boards as the Nets shot 47.6 percent and overcame a 46-38 rebounding disparity by getting 11 steals and forcing the most turnovers in the NBA this season. Ben Simmons led Philadelphia with 20 points and 12 rebounds for his seventh double-double. Joel Embiid posted his league-leading 10th double-double with 16 and 15 rebounds.

Magic 117, Spurs 110

Aaron Gordon poured in 26 points as visiting Orlando, at least for one night, played to its promise in a win over San Antonio. Orlando led by 17 points heading to the final quarter and seemed to have put the game on ice with 3-pointers by Jerian Grant and Gordon and a follow-up dunk by rookie Mohamed



MILWAUKEE: Yogi Ferrell #3 of the Sacramento Kings shoots the ball against the Milwaukee Bucks on Sunday at Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. —AFP

Bamba to make it 99-76. San Antonio, playing the second game of a home back-to-back, finally got rolling late to cut the Orlando lead to five points with 1:41 to play. But Nikola Vucevic hit a jumper and D.J. Augustin canned a pair of free throws with 16.2 remaining to repel the Spurs' comeback bid.

Portland Trail Blazers 111, Timberwolves 81

Jusuf Nurkic scored 19 points and grabbed 12

rebounds as Portland breezed to an easy win over visiting Minnesota. Damian Lillard scored 18 points and CJ McCollum added 16 for the Trail Blazers, who were in front after the opening minutes and led by as many as 36 points. Meyers Leonard came off the bench for season highs in scoring (15) and rebounds (12) and Zach Collins added 11 points for the Blazers. Karl-Anthony Towns led the Timberwolves with 23 points while Andrew Wiggins added 17. —Reuters

Do-or-die for Spurs in Euro crunch

LONDON: Desperate to avoid Champions League elimination at the group stage for the second time in three years, Tottenham face a do-or-die clash against PSV Eindhoven today. Mauricio Pochettino's side are third in Group B after taking just one point from their first three matches.

Tottenham's exit from Europe's elite club competition would be confirmed if they lose to PSV at Wembley and second placed Inter Milan beat group leaders Barcelona. Even a draw against PSV won't be enough if Inter win. That would be another wretched conclusion to a Champions League campaign that began with high hopes for Tottenham.

After failing to get past the group stage two seasons ago, Tottenham appeared to announce their arrival on the European stage with an impressive group victory over Real Madrid last term.

The north London club were eventually knocked out by Juventus in the last 16, but that narrow exit didn't discourage the belief that Pochettino's men were capable of making a sustained run to the latter stages this season. However, defeats to Inter and Barcelona were the worst possible start for Tottenham, with a late PSV equaliser in a draw in Eindhoven leaving the Premier League side in even deeper trouble. Tottenham's European woes are surprising given they have made their best start to a Premier League season-sitting in fourth place after Saturday's 3-2 win at Wolves.

That hard-fought victory underlined the pros and cons of Pochettino's team at present. They showcased their class in racing to a 3-0 lead thanks to goals from Erik Lamela, Lucas Moura and Harry Kane. But they then got complacent in the closing stages and allowed Wolves to score two penalties that set up a nail-biting



LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur's Argentinian head coach Mauricio Pochettino speaks during a press conference at Tottenham Hotspur's Enfield Training Centre, north London, yesterday on the eve of their UEFA Champions League Group B football match against PSV Eindhoven. —AFP

finale. Critics claimed Tottenham's narrow escape proved they remain a soft touch, echoing the recent jibe from former Manchester United star Gary Neville, who said Spurs have been "spineless" for 30 years.

Inevitably, Pochettino took the opposite view, insisting that Tottenham's ability to hold onto their narrow lead in the closing stages at Wolves showed they are tougher than outsiders believe.

"I am so happy right from the beginning. Since I arrived here we created a very good culture about fight and altogether the belief," Pochettino said. "It

was difficult to create that but I am so happy. It is a team that is always going to give the faith in each game. We can win or we can lose but we are so intense and today the effort was fantastic.

"We came from Manchester City when we ran more than 120km and West Ham was similar and this was the same. "That showed the team has a very strong character." Tottenham will need more of that fighting spirit to reach the Champions League knockout stages, with matches against Barcelona and Inter Milan remaining after the PSV clash. —AFP

Wobbling Atletico aiming to bounce back against Dortmund

Madrid: Atletico Madrid's underwhelming start to the season might have been overshadowed by the crisis enveloping city rivals Real but there will be no place to hide against Borussia Dortmund today.

A fortnight ago Dortmund dealt Diego Simeone's side a 4-0 drubbing, Atletico's heaviest defeat since the coach took charge 392 matches ago, while on Saturday they were held to a 1-1 draw by lowly Leganes, 18th in La Liga and with six defeats already to their name.

This was supposed to be Atletico's year, primed for a title challenge by some impressive signings in the summer and eyeing a run at the Champions League, pumped by the prospect of a final inside their own Wanda Metropolitano in June.

Their failings against Dortmund and Leganes were more striking because they were caused by weaknesses in defence, their strong point under Simeone. Dortmund pounced on Atletico to hit three in 10 minutes at the Signal Iduna Park, while on Saturday Leganes equalised thanks to lax marking at a free-kick. Atletico are cast in Simeone's image and have rarely been easy on the eye during his tenure. After scoring from a nine-pass move

against Huesca last month, the coach said: "I liked it because it ended with a goal." Their backbone in recent years has been the hardest to breach in Europe. "Nobody has the perfect way of playing," Simeone said last week. "It is about a pursuit of winning."

Weaker defending has placed greater demand on the attack but Antoine Griezmann's partnership with Diego Costa, so effective last season, appears to have lost its spark. Costa has one goal all season and is yet to get off the mark in La Liga. After turning 30 last month, it is tempting to wonder if the Spaniard's best days are now behind him.

Simeone remains loyal to Costa as he shares his best qualities—grit, determination, an unrelenting will to win—with his striker. They also define Atletico at their best. "He is an extraordinary player and very important to us," Simeone said last month. "Not least because of what he contributes to the atmosphere in the dressing room."

The rest of the team have not stepped in to fill the gap. Griezmann has five goals in 14, a decent return, but some way off the numbers needed. Thomas Lemar, the club's most exciting signing in the summer, has only two, and his unmistakable talent has so far only been seen in fits and starts. The overall sense is Atletico are under-delivering on expectations. Some have even suggested the message of Simeone, into his eighth year in charge, might have lost its punch. More likely, perhaps, is that they simply over-achieved before.

"The biggest plus of Simeone is he knows how to convince his players of his ideas," former Barcelona midfielder Xavi Hernandez told Catalunya Radio on Saturday. "He believes it is the only way to compete with Barca and Real Madrid. And his players believe it as well." Five wins from 11 games is hardly the form of champions but Atletico still have all to play for thanks to



MADRID: Atletico Madrid's Argentinian coach Diego Simeone attends a training session at the Ciudad Deportiva Wanda training ground in Madrid yesterday on the eve of the UEFA Champions League group A football match between Atletico Madrid and Borussia Dortmund. —AFP

their stumbling rivals. They sit third in the table, only four points adrift of leaders Barcelona and three ahead of Real. In the Champions League, victory over Dortmund this week could seal qualification with two games to spare and put them level on points with the Bundesliga leaders. Beating the Germans to top spot may be out of reach given their scintillating form at home and abroad but as Real Madrid.

Real's success, though, particularly in Europe, has come from a knack of casting off what has gone before and peaking when it matters most. Atletico need to take a leaf out of their rival's book. —AFP



Matches on TV

(Local Timings)

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

AS Monaco FC v Club Brugge KV	20:55
beIN SPORTS HD 6	
Crvena Zvezda v Liverpool	20:55
beIN SPORTS HD 1	
Atletico de Madrid v BV Borussia Dortmund	23:00
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
Internazionale Milano v FC Barcelona	23:00
beIN SPORTS HD 1	
Tottenham Hotspur v PSV Eindhoven	23:00
beIN SPORTS HD 4	
SSC Napoli v Paris Saint-Germain	23:00
beIN SPORTS HD 2	
Schalke 04 v Galatasaray Spor Kul,b,	23:00
beIN SPORTS HD 5	
FC Porto v Lokomotiv Moscow	23:00
beIN SPORTS HD 6	

Liverpool omit Shaqiri for Champions League over political tensions

LONDON: Xherdan Shaqiri has been left out of Liverpool's travelling squad for today's Champions League match against Red Star Belgrade, the Premier League club have announced. The midfielder was at the centre of controversy along with Switzerland teammate Granit Xhaka when they celebrated goals with a pro-Kosovo "double eagle" gesture that represents the Albanian flag during the World Cup win over Serbia in Russia.

The double-eagle is viewed as a symbol of defiance in Kosovo, which declared independence in 2008 in a move that Serbia still refuses to recognise. The players' double eagle celebration caused outrage in Serbia and Arsenal midfielder Xhaka and Shaqiri, both of Kosovan-Albanian descent, were fined by FIFA.

Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp said on the club's website yesterday: "It's a situation where we will go to the fantastic city of Belgrade as a football team to play football. "We have heard and read the speculation and talk about what kind of reception Shaq would receive and although we have no idea what would happen, we want to go there and be focused 100 per cent on football and not have to think about anything else, that's all."

Klopp added: "We are Liverpool FC, a big club, a football team but we don't have any message further than that. We have no political message, absolutely not. We want the focus to be on a great game of football, free from anything else."

"We are keen to be respectful and keen to avoid any distractions that would take focus away from a 90-minute-plus contest that is important for football and only football. So for that reason, Shaq is not involved and he accepts and understands this." Shaqiri started Liverpool's 4-0 home win over Red Star on October 24.

Liverpool top Champions League Group C with six points, one ahead of Napoli and two clear of Paris Saint-Germain, with Red Star at the bottom. —AFP

25 Djokovic top of the world after completing remarkable turnaround



26 Taijul Islam's 11 wicket-haul leads Bangladesh fightback

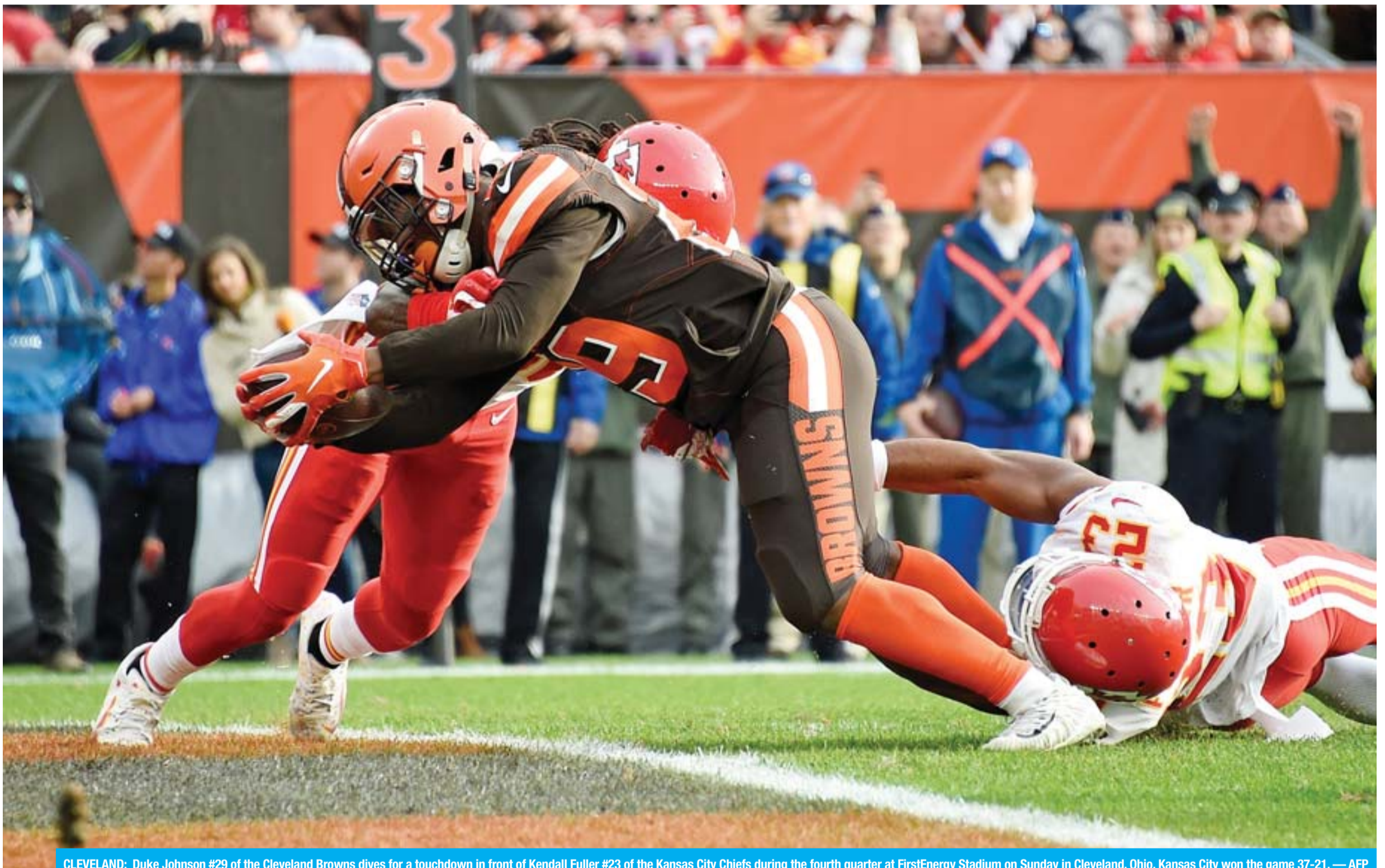


27 Do-or-die for Spurs in Euro crunch



Chiefs, Mahomes light up Cleveland

Saints hand Rams first loss in wild one in New Orleans



CLEVELAND: Duke Johnson #29 of the Cleveland Browns dives for a touchdown in front of Kendall Fuller #23 of the Kansas City Chiefs during the fourth quarter at FirstEnergy Stadium on Sunday in Cleveland, Ohio. Kansas City won the game 37-21. — AFP

KANSAS CITY: Patrick Mahomes passed for 375 yards and three touchdowns Sunday, while running back Kareem Hunt scored three touchdowns as the Kansas City Chiefs maintained the best record in the AFC by drilling the host Cleveland Browns 37-21. The 300-yard passing performance was the eighth straight for Mahomes, who has 29 touchdown passes. Browns rookie quarterback Baker Mayfield completed 29 of 42 passes for 297 yards and two touchdowns with one interception. Cleveland (2-6-1) suffered its fourth straight loss. It also marked Gregg Williams' debut as head coach after the Browns fired Hue Jackson. The Chiefs (8-1) scored on six of their first seven possessions, did not punt until the fourth quarter and averaged 8.6 yards per play. Five receivers had 50 or more yards, led by tight end Travis Kelce with 99 yards on seven receptions, with two touchdowns.

PATRIOTS 31, PACKERS 17

Tom Brady passed for 294 yards and a touchdown as host New England pulled away for a win over Green Bay. James White rushed for two touchdowns and Cordarrelle Patterson rushed for one more for New England (7-2). Julian Edelman threw a key 37-yard pass to White on a trick play in the fourth quarter to set up the Patriots' go-ahead score. Aaron Rodgers completed 24 of 43 passes for 259 yards and two touchdowns in a losing effort for Green Bay (3-4-1).

SAINTS 45, RAMS 35

Stymied for much of the second half after a 35-point first half, Drew Brees connected with Michael Thomas for a 72-yard touchdown with 3:52 left, his fourth touchdown pass of the game, to lift host New Orleans over previously unbeaten Los Angeles. Thomas caught 12 passes for 211 yards—a franchise single-game record for receiving yards—and Brees completed 25 of 36 passes for 346 yards for the Saints (7-1). Brees also threw scoring passes of 16 yards to Alvin Kamara, 4 yards to TreQuan Smith and 13 yards to Benjamin

Watson. Los Angeles (8-1) allowed a season high in points and lost for the first time since Jan. 6, when it fell short against the Atlanta Falcons in the NFC playoffs.

STEELERS 23, RAVENS 16

James Conner continued to excel with 163 yards from scrimmage and a touchdown catch as visiting Pittsburgh downed rival Baltimore. Conner, the AFC offensive player of the month for October, rushed for 107 yards and had 56 receiving yards against the top-ranked defense in the NFL. He became the first player in Steelers history with 10 touchdowns in the first eight games of a season. Ben Roethlisberger passed for 270 yards, including touchdowns to Conner and Antonio Brown, as Pittsburgh (5-2-1) won its fourth straight. Baltimore (4-5) has lost three straight.

VIKINGS 24, LIONS 9

Danielle Hunter returned a Matthew Stafford fumble 32 yards for a touchdown and host Minnesota Vikings defense sacked Stafford 10 times in to top Detroit. Kirk Cousins completed 18 of 22 passes for 164 yards and a touchdown for the Vikings (5-3-1). Adam Thielen caught Cousins' touchdown pass but was limited to 22 yards on four receptions. He entered the game having tied an NFL record by reaching 100 yards receiving in each of the first eight games of the season. Stafford completed 25 of 36 passes for 199 yards, Minnesota outgained Detroit 283-209 and the Lions (3-5) ran for only 66 yards.

TEXANS 19, BRONCOS 17

Brandon McManus missed a 51-yard field-goal attempt as time expired and Houston held on to beat host Denver for its sixth consecutive victory. Broncos quarterback Case Keenum passed for 290 yards and a touchdown and completed a crucial 18-yard, fourth-down pass to Emmanuel Sanders to help set the stage for McManus, who earlier missed a 62-yard attempt. Like that errant kick, McManus' would-be game-win-

ner sailed right. Ka'imi Fairbairn drilled a 37-yard field goal with 14:06 remaining to give the Texans (6-3) the lead for good. Keenum had pushed the Broncos ahead 17-16 with his 12-yard scoring pass to Jeff Heuerman with 5:57 remaining in the third quarter, the first and only lead for Denver (3-6).

BEARS 41, BILLS 9

Jordan Howard ran for two touchdowns and the Chicago defense scored twice for 28 points in the second quarter and the Bears blew out host Buffalo.

Cornerback Eddie Jackson returned a fumble 65 yards for a touchdown and defensive end Leonard Floyd scored on a 19-yard interception return less than four minutes later for the Bears (5-3), who have four defensive touchdowns this season. Buffalo (2-7) scored a touchdown for the first time in three games but was held to less than 14 points for the seventh time this season (and sixth game in a row). The Bills have now totaled 96 points through the first nine games, the fewest in franchise history.

PANTHERS 42, BUCCANEERS 28

Second-year players Curtis Samuel and Christian McCaffrey each scored two touchdowns as Carolina Panthers turned a record-setting first half into a 14-point victory against visiting Tampa Bay. Samuel's 19-yard touchdown catch with 9:04 remaining halted Tampa Bay's momentum as the Panthers (6-2) won their third game in a row. McCaffrey ran for a pair of first-half touchdowns as the Panthers set a franchise record with 35 first-half points. Tampa Bay quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick returned to the starting lineup, replacing erratic Jameis Winston, and threw for 243 yards and four touchdown passes but was intercepted twice as Tampa Bay fell to 3-5.

FALCONS 38, REDSKINS 14

Matt Ryan passed for 350 yards and four scores, including Julio Jones' first touchdown reception of the

season, and visiting Atlanta ended Washington's three-game winning streak in a blowout. Jones had seven catches for 121 yards and caught a 35-yard touchdown pass with 3:45 left to play, setting off an Atlanta celebration. Running back Tevin Coleman had two touchdown catches and rookie wide receiver Calvin Ridley had another—from 40 yards—for the Falcons (4-4). The Redskins (5-3) pulled to within 28-14 with 2:15 left in the third quarter when running back Kapri Bibbs scored from 3 yards out, but Atlanta added 10 fourth-quarter points.

CHARGERS 25, SEAHAWKS 17

Melvin Gordon returned after missing a game and rushed 16 times for 113 yards and a touchdown to lead Los Angeles over host Seattle. Gordon, who had been sidelined with a hamstring injury, scored on a 34-yard run in the second quarter, giving the Chargers (6-2) the lead for good. Philip Rivers completed 13 of 26 passes for 228 yards and two scores, both in the first half. Los Angeles defensive back Desmond King seemed to cap the victory with a 42-yard interception return of a Russell Wilson pass with 6:44 remaining, making it 25-10. It marked the lone interception for Wilson, who completed 26 of 39 passes for 235 yards and two touchdowns for the Seahawks (4-4).

DOLPHINS 13, JETS 6

Rookie Jerome Baker broke open a close game with a 25-yard interception return for a touchdown in the fourth quarter as host Miami topped AFC East rival New York. The Dolphins (5-4) snapped a two-game losing streak while the Jets (3-6) have lost three games in a row. Jets rookie quarterback Sam Darnold was intercepted a career-high four times. Miami led 6-3 when Baker made his play, cutting in front of a receiver on the right sideline. It was Baker's first career interception, and it was preceded at the start of the play by a bad shotgun snap from center Spencer Long, who has a dislocated middle finger. —Reuters